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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19480

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1997

The New York Times
**Corruption Lite,
Democracy's Junk Food**
8-page pullout



**Sharon Stone
is diabolical**
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Bar-On gives up A-G post

By SARAH HONG and EVELYN GORDON

In a dramatic about-turn, newly appointed Attorney-General Roni Bar-On last night informed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he will not take up his post.

His decision came while the High Court of Justice had in effect suspended the appointment while waiting to decide on a petition against it, and followed three days of controversy since his election by the cabinet on Friday.

State Attorney Edna Arbel has been named acting attorney-general until a new candidate is found.

Netanyahu issued a statement last night expressing regret over Bar-On's decision and his high regard for him.

"Bar-On was callously wronged through the unrestrained personal offensive against him, which was unleashed solely because of his political views," the statement said.

MK Dalja Itzik issued a statement on behalf of the Labor Party deriding Bar-On's abortive term of office as "further evidence of the ineptitude and negligence with which Netanyahu is running the country."

Knesset Law Committee chairman Shaul Yahalom praised Bar-On's decision, saying it reflected to his credit, and called on the cabinet to appoint a candidate of the highest professional stature.

Meretz Party leader MK Yossi Sarid said Bar-On's resignation "proves that at least a few people had underestimated him." He called on Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi to resign as well.

Bar-On's decision was announced by a somber Hanegbi in the middle of Channel 2's evening news.

Looking almost teary-eyed, Hanegbi related that Bar-On had just telephoned him and the prime minister to say he was withdrawing. According

to Hanegbi, "The move was completely at Bar-On's own initiative. The prime minister in fact sought to dissuade him and even asked that he at least wait to hear the High Court ruling. I implored him in a similar vein, but to no avail."

Hanegbi said Bar-On had told him and Netanyahu that he "didn't want the prime minister and the entire government to draw fire on his account, and that he would much rather forgo the position than hurt the government."

As Hanegbi sees it, "It is a great shame that Bar-On was unable to prove himself and occupy high office merely because he does not belong to that exclusive leftist elite of Israeli society. His unexpected decision resulted from the demonic whirlpool, from the exultant witch hunt which suddenly and so savagely erupted around a blameless man who had done no wrong and was given no chance. This man was injured without any cause via a merciless media onslaught and a cynical political character assassination, which should occasion much soul-searching."

Hanegbi said Netanyahu fully agrees that Bar-On was victimized by "a vicious, organized, and well-orchestrated blitz against him for no fault of his own, other than the stain of his association with the Likud."

It cannot be, Hanegbi continued, "that Israeli society would deny a man like Bar-On the opportunity to function even for one day and prove by even one decision that he is worthy of the appointment, and this only because he is a party member and because of his dreadful original sin of being affiliated with the Likud and Betar."

"I wish the High Court, despite Bar-On's decision, would hand down its decision on whether tens of thousands of party members in our country are disqualified from public

(Continued on Page 4)

Hussein compromise may clinch Hebron deal

By DAVID MAKOVSKY and JOHN EHMANUEL

Jordan's King Hussein yesterday secured a key Palestinian concession that appears to have brought the sides much closer to a Hebron agreement. He then flew with it from Gaza to Tel Aviv for a late night meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"We can envision the end of the negotiations in sight," Netanyahu said after meeting with Hussein. "Because of the important initiative His Majesty took, we have made considerable progress."

Earlier in Gaza, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat agreed to Hussein's proposal that Israel could prolong its three-stage withdrawal from West Bank rural areas, narrowing the gap on the key sticking point in the talks, according to a PA official.

Hussein put forward a compromise proposal on a critical future IDF pullback from the West Bank in the middle of 1998. A pullback in mid-1998 would mark the midway point between Israeli and Palestinian demands.

If Netanyahu agrees to the proposal, a meeting with Arafat to sign the Hebron pullback agreement is expected today, said one official. In Tel Aviv, however, Netanyahu, Hussein, and US special envoy Dennis Ross were upbeat but noncommittal late last night, saying some work remained.

"I leave here confident that everything will move in the right direction... a fresh beginning to continue the work to achieve the kind of peace and the kind of future we seek," Hussein told reporters after a 90-minute meeting with Netanyahu.

"We are closer than we were," said Ross, adding that he would now remain in the region, despite earlier plans to return to Washington.

The proposal was formulated yesterday during Hussein's visit to Gaza, his first since 1967, for talks with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The compromise proposal was worked out during seven hours of talks in Gaza and came amid phone calls to Netanyahu, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Ross, and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. It is expected to call for a third Israeli



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu greets Jordan's King Hussein last night in Tel Aviv.

(Dana Stern/Israel Sun)

pullback from the West Bank sometime between March 1998 and the end of 1998.

An official in the Prime Minister's Office saluted Hussein. "One has to admire the king, who is willing to risk his prestige by trying to reach an agreement, just as he did by attending the Washington summit" several months ago, he said.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, Jordanian officials notified Jerusalem Saturday night that the king would visit Gaza the following day, and if successful in his peacemaking, he would be amenable to meeting Netanyahu later in the day.

Hussein and Netanyahu spoke yesterday morning, and after he obtained a compromise proposal

in Gaza, Jordanian officials told the Prime Minister's Office in the afternoon that there was a basis for a meeting with Netanyahu. There was a flurry of phone calls yesterday among Gaza, Jerusalem, Washington, and Cairo. The Tel Aviv meeting last night caused Ross to cancel his plans to leave the region.

At the heart of yesterday's controversy was the question of whether the two sides could find common ground on the issue of future IDF pullbacks from the West Bank beyond a Hebron deal.

Arafat has wanted all pullbacks to conclude by September as called for in the Oslo 2 accord. Netanyahu's proposal was for a third pullback by the end of the interim period, ending in the

spring of 1999, so it would overlap with the deadline for resolving final status issues.

For Arafat, a Jordan-brokered agreement would underline the commitment of Hussein to the Israel-PLO Oslo accords, which he did not like when they were first announced. It would emphasize that the Hebron agreement was a multilateral affair rather than a bilateral agreement.

For Netanyahu, a Hussein-brokered agreement would help to restore his initial warm relations with the monarch, which turned frosty after the Western Wall Tunnel crisis.

The US put forward a compromise proposal last week calling for the pullbacks by some point in 1998, but deliberately avoided

giving an exact month.

Sources say that during a meeting in Paris between Labor Party leader Shimon Peres in Paris over the weekend, Arafat notified him that he was willing to compromise on having the third pullback occur by March 1998.

Arafat told visitors last week that he interprets the Oslo 2 agreement as giving him no less than 80 percent of the West Bank before the final status talks begin. Netanyahu has yet to put forward the government's interpretation. According to Oslo 2, by the end of the three pullbacks, Israel would redeploy in settlements and "specified military locations."

Early yesterday, the US Embassy announced that Ross

(Continued on Page 9)

Regional council says IDF dodges Katyushas... and city taxes

By ARNEH O'SULLIVAN

The regional council of Asher in the northwest corner of the country is demanding the IDF bases guarding the residents along the border with Lebanon pay rates (arnona) for taking up its land.

Paying municipal rates to the city of Tel Aviv and other cities in central area is one thing, since the IDF bases there take up large tracts of valuable land and the cities often extend their services to the army in the form of garbage pickup, and so on.

But demanding that the army pay rates for isolated, mountain-top positions along the Lebanon border has some generals hopping mad.

"It's a Kafkaesque situation. We are protecting them and they want us to pay," said one senior officer. "It's unheard of."

Another senior officer accused the civilian leadership in the north of immorally trying to milk the army out of money.

"It's incredible," said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "They hear we are paying arnona (rates) in the center of the country and now they want us to pay for the

border - they don't pay? Of course they pay," said Gilad Inbar, secretary of the Asher Regional Council. "What are we to do? Everyone has to pay taxes."

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NEWS
in brief

Thousands pray for rain

Thousands of people prayed for rain at a commemoration in Netivot in honor of the 13th anniversary of the Baba Sali's death. The ceremony took place at the Baba Sali's gravesite. Nearby, the followers of the North African rabbi planted the first date tree that will be part of a \$5 million Jewish National Fund park. *Itim*

SLA releases 8 prisoners

The South Lebanese Army militia freed eight detainees as a humanitarian gesture for Ramadan. SLA command announced yesterday.

The prisoners were freed starting Saturday from the Khiam detention center inside the security zone in southern Lebanon. Ramadan, the month of fasting, began Friday. More than 100 prisoners are believed to be held in Khiam prison, which is 5 kilometers north of the Israeli border. *AP*

New Health Ministry chief scientist named

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday appointed Prof. Brucha Rager as ministry chief scientist, replacing Prof. Michael Silberman, who ended his tenure on December 31. Rager, an immunologist, lectures and conducts research at Ben-Gurion University. She studied microbiology at Tel Aviv University and received her doctorate from the University of London. She has been a member of the board of directors of Teva Pharmaceuticals. *Judy Siegel*

High Court to hear Olmert suspension petition

A special panel of five justices will consider a petition to the High Court of Justice demanding that Ehud Olmert be forced to step down from his position as Jerusalem mayor, since he is under indictment in the Likud's fictitious receipts affair.

The petition, filed by the Amital organization, asked the court to set a precedent regarding the service of mayors charged with offenses that amount to a public disgrace. It is unimaginable that a person charged with such a serious crime should serve in a sensitive public position like the Jerusalem mayoralty, the petition said. *Itim*

Teenage girl saved in Judean Desert

Holon high school pupil Shirli Hezki, 16, was rescued yesterday after she slipped and fell while hiking on a cliff above Nahal Mashash in the Judean Desert. Classmates accompanying her ran for help and alerted officials at the Metzukei Dragot Field School, who summoned the Ein Gedi Regional Rescue Team. Rescuers rappelled into the wadi and took her to Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital, where she was reported in satisfactory condition. *Itim*

Espionage suspect admits KGB ties

Anatoly Gendler, 47, the electrical engineer from Herzliya accused of spying for Russia, told Tel Aviv District Court yesterday he had maintained contacts with the KGB and the Russian government, but denied these were as serious as the prosecution claims. He also denied trying to harm the security of the state.

Gendler claimed he had no choice but to spy for Russia for 10 years after immigrating here with his family in 1981, since his parents and those of his wife remained in Russia as virtual hostages. *Itim*

Herzog to head state jubilee council

Former president Chaim Herzog yesterday agreed in principle to head the public council that will supervise events marking the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the state. Maj. Gen. (res.) Yossi Peled is to head the non-profit association that will be responsible for organizing the events. *Itim*

Mordechai says he can't assure safety of Hebron Jews

By **ARIEH O'SULLIVAN**

The emerging agreement on Hebron cannot provide absolute safety for the Jewish residents there, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday.

"If someone thinks that there is a safe solution in Hebron, they are, in my opinion, either mistaken or misled. There is nothing absolute in Hebron. In the same city where a

group of Jews lives among a Palestinian population, who live right next to each other, house touching house, where they travel the same roads, move in the same places, there is no technical way to make a separation and certainly not give total security," Mordechai told a gathering at the Israel Press Club in Tel Aviv.

"The best way I see for living in Hebron is for both sides ... to come

to a situation where they know how to coexist, with mutual respect," Mordechai said. "Anything else will bring about friction and conflict and bloodshed and can be very dangerous."

"Hebron is part of a process that was agreed upon and we have to progress in order to reduce the friction and conflict as much as possible," he added.

Mordechai also said that the civil-

ian and military details of the Hebron deal were wrapped up and written down during a 10-hour meeting last Wednesday at the home of US Ambassador Martin Indyk.

"Maybe we, the government, myself, believe that we could have achieved a different, a better agreement. But there is maneuverability within this agreement," Mordechai said.

Mordechai explained that the

agreement allows for Jews to reach the Cave of Machpela freely and for Jewish residents of Hebron to move about in relative security. He also said it maintains civilian rights for Jewish residents of the city.

It also calls for a buffer zone between Israeli and Palestinian forces to avoid "misunderstandings and threats, be they real or perceived, which would bring about a total flare up."



Justice Ministry workers put away the spread that had been set up to celebrate Roni Bar-On's first day as attorney-general yesterday following the High Court's decision to delay the appointment. (Brian Hecker)

Eitan dismisses talk of abandoning Jordan Valley settlements

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan yesterday attacked a recent coalition-opposition understanding regarding the Jordan Valley as contravening government policy and said it should be ignored.

Speaking on a visit to the valley yesterday morning, Eitan said the understandings reached between coalition chairman MK Michael Eitan and Labor MK Yossi Beilin "do not coincide with government policy, and if anyone is conducting such talks you should not pay him any attention."

Eitan told farmers and settlement leaders that he is committed to developing the region and that his ministry would give priority to research and development, land cultivation, and bringing new settlers to live there.

The minister made his comments while addressing the dedication ceremony of the Ya'acobi Experimental Farm, named in memory of researcher Zvi Ya'acobi. His remarks followed a discussion of

the Michael Eitan-Yossi Beilin understandings in Friday's cabinet meeting.

Eitan told the audience that the cabinet had expressed clear reservations regarding the understandings. He insisted the importance of the Jordan Valley had not diminished in the eyes of the government.

Last Thursday, the Jordan Valley settlements were in an uproar over reports that the understandings made no mention of their remaining under Israeli sovereignty in a final settlement with the Palestinians.

The Eitan-Beilin document put forward two scenarios: under one, the valley would be designated a security zone; in the other, there would be an IDF defense zone in which a division would be stationed along the length of the Jordanian border. Neither case mentions retaining Israeli sovereignty over the settlements. (Itim)

Mordechai tells Callahan: Don't cut military aid

By **ARIEH O'SULLIVAN**

Visiting US Congressman Sonny Callahan, the chairman of the subcommittee on foreign aid who backs slashing foreign assistance, heard from Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday about the threats facing Israel.

Meeting in his Tel Aviv office yesterday, Mordechai spent two hours telling Callahan, a Republican from Alabama, that Israel appreciates and needs the \$1.8 billion annual military aid it receives from the United States.

According to Defense Ministry sources, Mordechai briefed Callahan on the arms build-up among the Arab states in the Middle East and warned the congressman of the intensive efforts by Iran to achieve nuclear capability.

"We appreciate the support they give us and the decision of the (American) administration to give us qualitative, technical priority for advanced weapons to the IDF so that the State of Israel can feel that it is capable of ensuring its security and look toward the future," Mordechai said after the meeting.

"I think they contribute significantly and we will understandably do our utmost to deal with the threats," Mordechai said,

Mordechai expects to travel to the United States in April to meet with his American counterpart Bill Cohen, who takes over this month from outgoing Secretary of Defense William Perry.

While Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said he wants to wean Israel off the \$1.2 billion in annual US civilian aid, Mordechai

strongly opposes cutting back on the military aid at any time in the foreseeable future, defense sources said.

Callahan, who is leading an eight-member Congressional delegation on a Middle East sweep that will include Egypt, Jordan and Morocco, also met with Netanyahu.

ARRIVALS

The following leaders of WIZO federations, to attend the plenary sessions of the World WIZO Executive: Aida Margulies, Amalia Polack - ARGENTINA; Zosia Mercer - AUSTRALIA; Edith Landesman, Edith Kalcz, Rita Dauber - AUSTRIA; Esther Lipszyc - BELGIUM; Ana Malena Starec, Marina Gottlieb - BRAZIL; Stella Hillel - BULGARIA; Pat Albert, Ly Frank, Naomi Frankenburg, Esther Mallow - CANADA; Juanita M. De Wechster - CHILE; Erica Jukova - CZECH REPUBLIC; Kaja Sardo - DENMARK; Rebecka Blumberg - ESTONIA; Leena Obstbaum - FINLAND; Michale Benvenist, Ellen Djan - FRANCE; Elizabeth Gross, Hellen Israel - GERMANY; Ruth Sotnick, Barbara Harding, Shoshana Schreiber - G.BRITAIN; Ludjia Seitel - GREECE; Annelies Cohn-Erwelmann, Betty Heerje-Halberstadt - HOLLAND; Erzi Simon, Susanna Javor - HUNGARY; Zita Ardi, Berla Sinai Kramar, Bianca Finzi - COLBI - ITALY; Hana Finkelstein - LATVIA; Sima Kopnis, Sully London - MEXICO; Miriam Rodner - NORWAY; Mushe Kirsh, Annette Price - SOUTH AFRICA; Charlotte Etlinger - SWEDEN; Lucie Gideon, Gerie Louie - SWITZERLAND; Edda Brenner - URUGUAY; Mercedes Ivcher, Rosella Rotley - USA.

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Thu. 16.1.97, 7.50 pm T-A, concert 3 Series H

IN THE NEWS

Author: Roni Bar-On is a heavy gambler

By **MICHAL YUDELMAN**

Before Roni Bar-On's surprise announcement last night that he was withdrawing his candidacy for the coveted post of attorney-general, the media spent the day delving into his personal life and interviewing anybody who had anything to say about him. Most of it was far from complimentary. Bar-On is a heavy gambler and a regular visitor of casinos abroad, author Irit Linor said on Shelly Yehimovitz's Israel Radio talk show, *It's All Talk*.

Linor said she met "a pleasant group of Israeli men, most of them attorneys from Jerusalem" in London last year, who had come for a combined visit of "shopping in the morning, theater in the afternoon and gambling at night." She added that "this was a group of old friends, who travel regularly abroad without their wives." The group leader was Bar-On, "whom I must note I didn't see at the theater, but at the casino he most certainly was."

Linor, who admitted "I had never been to a casino," accepted their invitation to accompany them to the Ritz casino, where

she saw Bar-On in action.

Bar-On and one other lawyer were the two heavy gamblers in the group and "they even boasted of the large sums they bet on every evening, talking about thousands of dollars a night. They were in the casino the previous night as well, and intended to come the next evening too. Since I was quite bored, I sat and talked to the casino manager. He told me that these are regular customers."

Two other members of the group were Bar-On's office manager Rami Koc and Attorney Yoel Shabtai.

Chairman of the Knesset's Constitution Committee, MK Shaul Yahalom, of the National Religious Party, said, "The prime minister and justice minister should have understood that the attorney-general must be a man of special qualities, at the pinnacle of professional performance and immaculate in his public and private conduct. Gambling in a casino is not in keeping with a senior office in the civil service. For me it's enough that Finance Minister Dan Meridor, who was formerly a justice minister and who knows Bar-On, said the man is not suitable."

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We express our deep condolences to **Rony, Jeremy, Susan and Family** on the passing of **ABE KESSLER** Father and grandfather **Moshav Habonim** The funeral will take place at Rehovot Cemetery at 5 p.m., today, Monday, January 13, 1997.

In deep sorrow, we announce the death of our dear **ELISE EBERHARDT EISINGER** The bereaved families: **Bavarsky Eisinger Rahat**

The dedication of the tombstone for the Matriarch of our families **SARAH EATMAN ע"ה** will take place on Wednesday, 7 Shvat, at 4:15 p.m. We will meet at the Har Hamenuhot parking lot. **The Schechter, Bleiberg and Freimark families**

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Ruling against IDF sets gay rights precedent

By ESTHER HECHT

Soldiers, policemen, teachers and other members of the public sector stand to benefit from Friday's precedent-setting ruling in the case of Adir Steiner vs. the IDF.

The Tel Aviv District Court, sitting as an appeals committee, ruled the IDF must recognize Steiner as an IDF widower and grant him all benefits to which such widowers are entitled. Steiner's claim derived from his seven-year relationship with Col. Doron Maisel, who died of cancer in 1991 at age 46.

This precedent is even more far-reaching than ruling in the Yonatan Danilovitz case, according to Tel Aviv attorney Amnon Ben-Dror, who represented Steiner. The earlier case, in which El Al was ordered to grant the right to a free plane ticket to a same-sex partner, involved a private contract between a company and an individual. But Steiner's case involves the IDF, which must now provide a fiscal pension, paid by the Treasury, and so has implications for the entire public sector, Ben-Dror said.

For Steiner, however, the real victory has to do with the nonmonetary benefits. "One of

them is the right to be invited to memorial ceremonies. Another is to be allowed to write an entry in memory of Doron in *Sefer Yizkor* [the IDF's series of memorial volumes]," he said.

Immediately after he received the good news, Steiner phoned his mother to tell her the good news. Then he phoned Maisel's three daughters, who, he said, had supported him through the three-and-a-half year legal battle. And he tried to phone MK Yael Dayan, whom he referred to as "the mother of all homosexuals and lesbians in Israel."

Although some laws pertaining to survivors' pensions refer specifically to "husband" or "wife," others, as in the case of the IDF, refer to "partner."

Steiner, 30, said that from the age of 18 he was Maisel's "partner" or "common-law spouse."

Ben-Dror argued that the law does not say common-law spouses cannot be of the same sex and that the IDF's position constituted discrimination and a violation of the principle of equality.

The committee's reasoned decision stated that if the appellant were a woman, all the benefits would have been granted.

According to Steiner, three elements of his relationship with Maisel were relevant to the court's recognition of his status as a common-law spouse: shared finances, a shared home and public recognition of their relationship. The fact that he and Maisel had a monogamous relationship helped, too, though the sexual element was not the issue.

"The courts no longer get into a person's underpants," Steiner said. "Even a man and woman don't have to prove they had sexual relations to establish their status as common-law spouses."

A contract between partners is also helpful in establishing a survivor's entitlement to benefits, Ben-Dror said, and he strongly advises same-sex couples to draw up such contracts.

Steiner, who works for a PR firm, was shattered by Maisel's death and was moved to take action only a year-and-a-half later, following the Danilovitz ruling. Since then, his life has changed radically, he said. "I've gone from being a person with no awareness of civil rights and uninvolved in anything to being involved in my own struggle, the struggle of homosexuals and lesbians in Israel, and the struggle of gay people around the world."



MK Eli Goldschmidt mans the controls of a diesel engine yesterday, as (from left) MKs Nissim Danon, Rafi Eilat, and Ports and Railways Authority Director-General Shoshana Lerer look on.

All aboard for Knesset committee

By SYBIL EHRLICH

The Knesset Economics Committee yesterday got a glimpse of what the Ports and Railways Authority hopes will be a glorious future.

The committee, chaired by MK Eli Goldschmidt (Labor), set out on a two-day tour of the Negev starting with a guided tour of the Hashalom station in Tel Aviv. Authority director-general Shoshana Lerer explained that the station is part of a suburban network that will eventually include four or five stations in Tel Aviv.

The Knesset members, traveled by regular train to Be'er Sheva, where they were met by a bus for the next leg of their journey. During the bus trip, a video presentation showed future plans - an overview of the development of the ports of Haifa, Ashdod and Eilat, as well as the projected expansion of the railway network.

Pinhas Ben-Shaul, head of planning for the authority, presented the railways' master plan for the next 25 years and for the more immediate proposals.

A serious problem is the difficulty of constructing lines where land has not been allocated for that purpose. Local authorities generally prefer businesses and

hotels, which they see as more profitable.

The committee's tour continued by bus to Har Tzin, the southern outpost of Israel Railways, on a line used only for transporting minerals. The railway works in cooperation with the Rotem Company, which has mined phosphates in the area since 1952.

The site could easily accommodate a waste-disposal facility for the whole Tel Aviv area. Two trains a day - the equivalent of 40 road trucks - would be sufficient to transport all Tel Aviv's waste material.

The Dudaim and Hiriya dumps are to be closed in the near future, and the Har Tzin landfill site is the only spot in the country to which there is no environmental objection by local residents.

The Economics Committee then continued along the line of the future railway to Eilat from Har Tzin into the Arava.

It will be difficult to take the line into the town itself. The best solution, from an ecological, economic and geological point of view, officials said, is to build a terminus 7 kilometers north of Eilat. Freight would then be transported on a bypass road to the west of the town and into the port.

Government approves ovarian cancer drug

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry approved the drug Taxol for use against ovarian cancer. Until now, the drug - made from the Pacific yew tree - has been approved only for women with a recurring ovarian tumor or whose cancer has spread to the ovaries from other organs.

The drug, made by Bristol-Myers Squibb - which invested over \$900 million in the medication - is the first anti-cancer agent in over 15 years to offer a significant increase in the short-term survival rate of women with ovarian cancer. The survival rate two or three years after women take Taxol is significantly higher than those who did not take the drug, but does not make much of a difference five years after treatment.

The European Union health authorities approved Taxol on the basis of US findings that showed that combining Taxol and cis-platin, a widely used chemotherapy drug, prolongs the survival time of patients with advanced ovarian cancer by over 50%, compared to other treatments. The side effects include temporary loss of hair, joint pain and low white blood-cell counts.

"The results of Taxol studies certainly make a significant contribution, in the short run, to ovarian cancer patients," said Dr. Uzi Beller, head of the surgical and oncological gynecology unit at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, which introduced Taxol in this country in 1992.

In Israel, 350 new cases of ovarian cancer are discovered each year.

IMA slams plans to dismiss 500 immigrant doctors

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Israel Medical Association yesterday declared a work dispute to protest Finance Ministry plans to dismiss 500 immigrant doctors due to Health Ministry budget cuts.

The IMA yesterday sent an urgent letter to Knesset Aliya and Absorption Committee chairman MK Naomi Blumenthal and a telegram to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was asked to intervene and ensure that the dismissals are not carried out.

IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar said that despite promises it received from Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein on the

issue, the state budget approved by the Knesset does not include funding to ensure that the immigrant doctors can remain in their jobs.

"Unfortunately, this isn't the first time the Treasury has led us by the nose; there are no other words to describe the situation," Blachar said.

"It's unthinkable that the Knesset committee would publicly receive official commitments and no one would stand behind them."

If the money is not found, Blachar said, the IMA will take organizational measures, including a strike.

No comment was available from the Finance Ministry.

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SUPER-SOLX HYPERCO

Bulgarian leader wants general election

By THALIA GRIFFITHS

SOFIA (Reuters) - Thousands of Bulgarians massed for a huge opposition rally yesterday and president-elect Petar Stoyanov said round-table talks were impossible unless the government gave in to demands for a general election.

Hundreds of cars flying blue opposition flags headed into Sofia from provincial towns for a rally on the seventh straight day of protests against the ex-communist ruling Socialists.

"The political atmosphere requires that the citizens' demand should be considered," Stoyanov, an opposition lawyer elected in November, said in a statement. "I am appealing to the ruling party and the opposition to sit at the table for talks. This is now possible only if the Bulgarian Socialist Party goes to the talks having already decided to hold early parliamentary elections."

The demonstrations in central Sofia parallel long-running protests in Belgrade. However,

while Serbians are campaigning for an end to one-party rule, Bulgarians are protesting over more fundamental problems of poverty and crime.

Under Bulgaria's post-communist constitution, the president is a largely ceremonial figure but both Stoyanov and outgoing president Zhelev have taken firm anti-government stands in the crisis.

Zhelev declined to give the Socialists, who have a majority in parliament, a mandate to form a new government following the December 21 resignation of Prime Minister Zhan Videnov.

Thousands of demonstrators surrounded the Socialist party headquarters chanting, whistling and ringing bells. Protesters of all ages streamed into Sofia by car, bus and tram.

State radio said it was stepping up coverage and gave reports on the rally interspersed with Bulgarian songs whose lyrics called for courage and change.

Cars arriving from the provinces were greeted by a

Gypsy orchestra and escorted by police to the rally site in front of the gold-domed Alexander Nevsky cathedral.

The opposition, backed by trade unions and groups as diverse as the national Gypsies' union and the tiny rump Bulgarian Communist Party, has vowed to hold Belgrade-style daily protests until its demand for early elections is met.

The Socialists yesterday responded to Zhelev's refusal to ask them to form a new government by ruling out elections.

Bulgaria's Holy Synod ordered masses for peace to be said in Orthodox churches throughout the country after 196 people were injured in clashes on Friday and Saturday. Police used clubs to break up a 10-hour siege of parliament, with what a government statement described as "minimal use of force".

"After the night of the long clubs, not only deputies, students and policemen are bleeding, Bulgaria is bleeding," said an editorial in *Troud* daily.



Deadly derailment

Firemen carry the body of a passenger from the wreckage of the Milan to Rome express train, after it derailed near a station in Piacenza yesterday. At least eight people died when the high-speed train hurtled off the track and crashed into electricity pylons. (Reuters)

Mandela: ANC made mistakes

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - South African President Nelson Mandela admitted yesterday that his ruling African National Congress had made major mistakes in its nearly three years in power.

"We have of course made mistakes. Some of them very fundamental and serious," Mandela told several thousand people gathered to mark the 1912 founding of the ANC, South Africa's oldest political movement.

Among the errors he listed were a multi-million

rand musical intended to educate people about AIDS, which was scrapped as hugely wasteful, and a scandal which surrounded secret funds donated by businessmen to the party.

"The question is not so much whether one makes mistakes or not but rather whether...we are prepared to admit our mistakes and above all, to learn from and quickly rectify weaknesses in our work," he told the crowds gathered at a stadium near Bloemfontein in the central Free State province.

Greek FM meets Milosevic

BELGRADE (Reuters) - Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos said yesterday after talks with rivals in Serbia's political crisis that a solution was possible based on an OSCE report that

upheld opposition victories in disputed elections.

He spoke after meetings with strongman Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and leaders of the opposition Zajedno (Together)

movement, which has staged mass protests for eight straight weeks against the government's annulment of the vote.

The official news agency Tanjug said the Pangalos-Milosevic meeting was cordial but made clear the Serbian government resented growing international pressure to resolve the crisis, suggesting Pangalos' mission achieved little.

Two senior ministers in Milosevic's Socialist (SPS) government tacitly conceded on Saturday that certain results in the Serbia-wide municipal elections were "wrongly" cancelled, saying the "genuine and final" outcome must be respected.

But Zajedno reacted to that statement with skepticism and vowed to press on with demonstrations for democratic reform, even after meeting Pangalos. Thousands of whistle-blowing protesters rallied in central

Belgrade again yesterday.

Zajedno's victories in 14 of Serbia's 18 largest cities including the capital Belgrade and second largest city Nis were canceled by the SPS over alleged "irregularities".

A subsequent inquiry by a delegation, led by former Spanish prime minister Felipe Gonzalez on behalf of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe declared the elections valid, ratcheting up pressure on the SPS to admit defeat.

Pangalos had talks with the exclusive Milosevic shortly after arriving in Belgrade and then met Zoran Djindjic, Vuk Draskovic and Vesna Pestic, Zajedno's leadership trika.

"From what we have discussed up to now, it seems that the Gonzalez report has to be applied totally, including the city council of Belgrade," Pangalos told reporters.

Yeltsin increases activity

MOSCOW (AP) - President Boris Yeltsin remained in stable condition yesterday and has begun working on papers while recovering from pneumonia, the presidential press service said.

Doctors who examined the president yesterday said his temperature, blood pressure and pulse were all normal and that the course of treatment with antibiotics would continue.

The press service said that Yeltsin "has considerably increased his activity" and has begun doing paperwork in his suite in Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital. The chief Kremlin doctor, Sergei Mironov, said in a television interview that Yeltsin had caught a cold over the holidays a week ago that turned into pneumonia in both lungs.

BAR-ON

(Continued from Page 1)

office. If so, we would be penalizing all those who take a stand and follow their ideals, rather than just care about the latest car model or the color of their bathroom tiles at home."

Haneghi argued that "there was nothing the matter with the way the appointment was presented to the cabinet. It was not unlike what has been done in the past. Perhaps in view of the increasing openness of our society, we should have informed the ministers better in advance, and this in any event is an oversight on my part alone."

The final impetus to Bar-On's decision, according to one source, was not the carping comments about his professional record, but the gossip and rumor-mongering which came into play yesterday. This culminated with a report of Bar-On's visit to a London casino and allegation he is a big-time gambler (See report, Page 2).

Hot on the heels of that came another report that he was a senior lecturer eight years ago for the I Am group, which some contend is a semi-cult. According to the source, Bar-On felt that his private life was being maliciously invaded by those determined to attack the government through him.

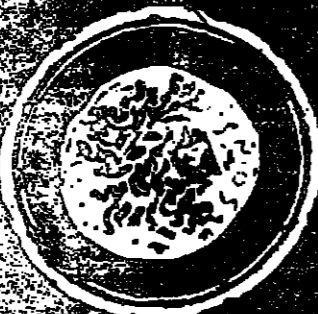
Earlier in the day, the High Court delayed Bar-On's taking up his new job pending the outcome of the petition against his appointment.

Justices Theodor Or, Yitzchak Zamir, and Mishael Cheshin were hearing a petition by MK Ophir Pines (Labor) to disqualify the appointment, on the grounds the cabinet had received information about Bar-On only at the last minute, and several ministers said they did not know enough to make an informed decision.

The petition also said Bar-On should be disqualified because of his party affiliation - he was a member of the Likud Central Committee until he resigned Saturday night.

In an affidavit submitted to the court, Haneghi argued that the appointment was perfectly legal. The law states only that the attorney-general must be appointed by the cabinet and that he must be qualified to be a Supreme Court justice - meaning at least 10 years' experience as a lawyer - and both conditions were fulfilled in Bar-On's case, he said. There have also been cases in the past where the cabinet was given no prior notice before the vote, Haneghi added.

Pines said afterwards that he was pleased with the court's decision. "This is essentially an interim injunction [against the appointment]," he said. "I'm aware that it isn't comfortable for the court to discuss the appointment of the attorney-general... but this is the test of Israel democracy and the rule of law."



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MOVIE REVIEW

Stone sinks 'Diabolique' hits new depths

By ADINA HOFFMAN

Henri-Georges Clouzot's 1955 French thriller *Diabolique* goes unmentioned in the credits of this

DIABOLIQUE

Directed by Jeremiahs Chechik. Screenplay by Don Roos. Hebrew title: Neshot Hasatan. 107 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult.

With Sharon Stone, Isabelle Adjani, Chazz Palminteri and Kathy Bates

American remake, directed by Jeremiahs Chechik, from a script by Don Roos. But perhaps this omission is for the better: the new

version of the macabre classic is dismal on its own terms and comparisons to the original would only make it seem worse.

This time around, the action has been transplanted to a boy's school outside of Pittsburgh, where Chazz Palminteri is the sadistic headmaster, Isabelle Adjani his fragile, ex-mun of a wife, and Sharon Stone his vampish mistress, perhaps the least convincing algebra teacher in the history of film. Tired of being abused and humiliated, the women conspire to drown the man in the bathtub. After they do so, they begin to sense that something isn't right. His body vanishes, from where it was dumped, and other strange signs appear.

The plot is, at best, nonsensical. From the outset, we wonder at the weird alliance between betrayer and betrayed, and the filmmakers barely trouble themselves to make the women's motivations coherent, let alone compelling. Even the hints at a

lesbian relationship have a perfunctory quality, as if Stone had demanded in her contract that this steamy possibility figure in the script. Adjani's character has obviously been battered by her husband, but why would Stone's femme fatale want, or need, to kill her lover? The answer implied by her stiletto-sharp manner is simply that she despises all men and relishes the prospect of bumping off one especially unsympathetic specimen.

The male-hating theme finds its extension in the character of a tough, one-breasted detective played by Kathy Bates. When she shows up and begins to sniff around the school for clues of the missing principal it's not clear if she'd rather find him dead or alive. She has her own agenda. (So, apparently, does Don Roos, who also wrote the script for that sorry women's picture *Boys on the Side*, in which the trio of loveable female leads had a great time bashing out the brains of an abu-

sive boyfriend. Roos seems to have found his niche as Hollywood's self-hating-guy-for-hire.)

In the hands of a more enterprising director, all this coursing female hostility might have swept some new life into the dried-up genre setpieces that fill the movie. Chechik, though, has no discernible style of his own: he relies on the usual low-wattage photography and ominous orchestrations to create a threatening atmosphere, and encourages the stars to overact grotesquely. Stone, a natural ham, takes his direction to comic-book extremes, stomping and chain-smoking angrily in a range of leopardskin bras and silky black slips, and delivering her lines in a hard, hollow tone. Her performance is camp without the fun that usually implies.

Adjani does her scenery-chewing bit, too, quivering and biting her lip throughout most of the picture, and even clutching her heart and gasping for breath prettily (it's not the film's airless atmosphere: her character has a heart condition). And as if her blubbering bearing weren't bad enough, she's forced to wear ugly, shapeless dresses and a symbolic megacrucifix around her neck. Next to Stone's glamorous bitch-goddess, this overgrown convent girl is a thankless part to play. But it's only fair: *Diabolique* is a thankless film to sit through.



Sharon Stone - an unlikely algebra teacher

NEWS

of the muse

Barkai up the wrong tree

Three years ago, when he first tried his hand as a television talk show host, Razi Barkai was a miserable failure, and his show folded after only eight runs. Now he's getting a second chance. Next month, Barkai, who anchors Army Radio's *What's Burning?* will take over from Micha Friedman as host of Channel 2's *Media File*. Friedman meanwhile is to co-host, with Yardena Arazi, Channel 2's breakfast program twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The aggressive Barkai, whose interviews rarely get a chance to respond to his ongoing battery of questions, has said that he won't be instituting any immediate changes.



Razi Barkai (Uzi Keren)

Green Fay Cashman

A new Webb site?

The Kirov could be the next stop for New Israeli Opera resident conductor Jonathan Webb. He arranged all the vocal and orchestral preparation for the current NIO/Kirov co-production, *Lady Macbeth from Mzensk (Katerina Ismailova)*. When the Kirov's music director, Maestro Valery Gergiev, arrived to take over the final rehearsals, he was so delighted with the high musical standard he found that he has invited Webb to conduct all performances from this Thursday instead of the scheduled Alexander Polianichko.

Helen Kaye Jonathan Webb (Harany)

Poets' corner

Getting away from it all will be an option for poets who want a bit of sylvan peace and quiet. Following the success of last year's Poets Festival in Metulla - the first of its kind - the Metulla Regional Council and the Israeli Culture and Arts Council have combined to create studio space where Israeli poets can dally with the muse. Each poet or poetess can stay for two weeks and applications will be accepted twice a year. A three-person committee will choose the lucky incumbents, but the winners may not be as lucky as they might first suppose. Each poet-in-residence will be required to conduct workshops with adults and youth and give lectures and poetry readings, leaving them little time to write.

Helen Kaye

It takes a president's wife

US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton received a Grammy nomination on Tuesday for the audio version of her best-selling book *It Takes a Village*. Clinton will be up against several Hollywood celebrities in the spoken word or non-musical album category.

Other nominees in the category include Lauren Bacall, Martin Landau, Jack Lemmon and Gregory Peck for their work on the Paul Werth book, *Harry S. Truman: A Journey to Independence*. The winner will be announced on February 26 at the 39th annual Grammy Awards ceremony at Madison Square Garden.

Reuter



Hillary Clinton (Isaac Harari)

Further fallout from OJ trial

Marcia Clark, the lead prosecutor in the O.J. Simpson murder trial, is leaving the district attorney's office, and sources said she will host a television talk show.

"She'll be profiling people," one source said. Clark, 43, who spent 14 years as a deputy district attorney, has been in professional limbo since the murder trial ended in October 1995 with Simpson's acquittal.

LA Times

Hassidic rock on MTV

A video of a song by Los Angeles band Tish is set to be the first hassidic music on MTV, according to *The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles*. As Tish prepares to cut its first CD, founder Harry Jacobs (who worked in music and TV in Israel for some years) says "People are getting to appreciate the world-beat quality of hassidic dance."

Indeed the band's hassidic rock seems to be popular in Jewish circles in Los Angeles, and in March Tish is due to perform a musical with hassidic stories between songs.

According to Jacobs, Congregation Beth Jacob Rabbi Avner Weiss has okayed the band's inclusion of female singers "as long as they only sing backup." For hardy audiences, the band dispenses with these vocalists altogether.

Jerusalem Post Staff

From 'Fame' to fame

By HELEN KAYE

At the first concert he ever attended at New York's High School of the Performing Arts - the school where they shot *Fame* - new student Bill Louther saw contemporary dance for the first time "and practically breaking my mother's arm, I told her 'that's what I'm going to do'."

And, he did it. In fact he did it so well that Louis Falco, the creator of *Fame*, modeled Leroy on his old classmate.

During his more than 30 year career, dancer/choreographer Louther (pronounced Louter), has danced with Martha Graham, Alvin Ailey, (he was a founding member), Jerome Robbins, and Merce Cunningham among others.

The list of companies he's created dances for sounds like the *Who's Who?* of the dance world - it includes the Royal and Culberg ballets to name just two.

Through Graham, Louther became the founding artistic director of the London Contemporary Dance Theater (LCDT) in the mid-sixties, and in 1972 Louther came to Israel for the first time to become artistic director of the BatSheva Dance Company.

When he came, "BatSheva was a roster of stars and I sort of beat it into a company." He stayed three years then, and "I guess I've been back almost every year since," he says.

When he comes now, he stays with dancer Tamara Mielnik, for whom he is both friend and mentor. In the summer he teaches a master class at the Jerusalem Rubin Academy "which is a mas-

ter class in the truest sense of the word," says Mielnik. "He is a great teacher and one of the greatest dance artists in the world."

Mielnik founded the Jerusalem Dance Theater, a dance company and umbrella group for all kinds of dance projects, in 1986. Tonight, JDT is having the first of its two galas at the Rebecca Crown auditorium in the Jerusalem Theater. The other is at Suzanne Dellal in Tel Aviv on Wednesday. Louther, who has enthusiastically supported dance in Jerusalem, is part of it, of course.

Louther and ballerina Galina Panov will premiere his newest work, a pas de deux called *Beloved*, based on a dance of the same name by Lester Horton. Another recent Louther work is *Sacred Ground*, the piece he made last summer for Springboard, the Rubin Academy's graduate com-

pany created by Hassia Levy-Agron.

Beloved is taken from the true story of a minister who beat his new bride to death with the Bible, and who was found quickly reading it with her battered body on the floor beside him.

two uncles, who lived with them, were musicians and "Dizzy Gillespie and Max Roach were my baby sitters. I owe my musical education to them."

He studied piano, didn't keep it up, but "when I find the time, I sit down and depress myself. I always knew the arts would be my meter and my parents supported me. I'd been involved in drama at junior high, and Performing Arts accepted me into the theater program."

The dance revelation changed his major, and Louther went on from there to study at Juilliard and New York University, getting his Bachelors degree from both.

His first job was with May O'Donnell, a Graham protégé. It was only later that he danced in Graham's company.

The relationship established then has lasted beyond Graham's death nearly seven years ago; Louther is still a consultant to the company.

"Contemporary dance attacks all of the senses, all at once," he says. "It's instantly communicative on a spiritual level."

"The body never lies and so every movement must have truth in it, or it becomes frivolous and vulgar."

"You have to start with 'why do I want to make this dance'. It has to be real to my own senses. A work shouldn't have to be explained."

Other works at the gala include the prize-winning *And He Made Me Laugh* created and performed by Mielnik, *War and Peace* by Valery Panov, *Kongo Tango Palace* by Tali Biti, and *The Creation of the World*, another premiere by Yaakov Lipschitz.

Music for the millennium on a 1734 Stradivarius

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

For her forthcoming Israeli debut with the Haifa Symphony Orchestra at the end of the week, Canadian violinist Chantal Juillet opted to play the Shostakovich concerto, and for good reason.

From her Montreal abode, Juillet speaks with enthusiasm about her commitment to 20th century music. "I am very much interested in a repertoire [which is] less played [but] which is fantastic. And my recording company, Decca, knows that this is what I want to record. I don't think the recording market needs another Brahms or Mendelssohn. Recording Shostakovich at the end of the century is much more important."

Juliet has already recorded the concerti of Szymanowski, Stravinsky, Korngold, Goldschmidt, Weill and Kerenk, some of which appeared on Decca's prestigious *Entertete Musik* project, which focuses on music banned by the Third Reich.

She has also recorded Ravel disc with Pascal Roge and her next recording will feature Hungarian music by Bartok, Kodaly and other less familiar composers.

"I find it fascinating to discover new composers," she adds with an air of excitement.

She had a very close relationship with Goldschmidt who conducted her recording of his con-

certo after she premiered the work in Montpellier.

He also wrote his *Rondeau* for her which she recorded under his baton.

"The concerto is not out yet. It will come on a Goldschmidt concert disc which will also feature his cello concerto which has already been recorded by Yo Yo Ma and his clarinet concerto, which will be recorded by Sabine Mayer," she says.

The Shostakovich concerto is very special indeed, Juillet says. "It's a fantastic piece, a big, fairly long concerto which is also interesting for the orchestra."

"There is a lot of communication with the orchestra, and everybody enjoys playing this music. It's so lively, such incredible melodies, and above all is a big challenge for a violinist because of the length and the quite difficult cadenza before the last movement."

Juliet explains that "every movement is quite different. It's quite a classical work, not atonal, quite pleasing to the ear and the harmonies are never shocking. Its start is dark and somber yet still quite melodic."

"Then the second movement is fast with a lot of rhythm and the third movement is a beautiful melody, the kind of music you want to sing."

"The cadenza, the most atonal part of the concerto, that's where it gets a little more modern to the ear."

Chantal Juillet plays on a very



Chantal Juillet brings Shostakovich to Haifa.

special 1734 Stradivarius, loaned to her by a private American "who has a few instruments and loans them out. It's one of the last Stradivarius made and it's actually darker in sound than the usual strad."

"It's something I was always attracted to. It has the quality of a strad but it's darker, sometimes it borders the viola sound."

Chantal Juillet plays the Shostakovich first violin concerto with the HSO Saturday through Monday and next Wednesday.

CLASSIC DISCS

Bucking the trend

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Iona Brown should have been in Israel this week, but, unfortunately, the violinist/leader/conductor had to cancel her series of concerts with the Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba. Consequently, we have to settle for her new recordings.

Brown is the leader of one of the most impressive chamber music ensembles in the world, an ensemble that works against popular traditions and fashions. The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields is a chamber orchestra that performs 16th and 17th century ensembles in 20th century style. The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields is not just any ensemble. It is one of the most prestigious and experienced of its kind. And it shows.

Two new discs, with Brown, on the Academy Series of the German Hanssler Classic label, showcase the Academy at its glorious best.

Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* is one of the most recorded works in the repertoire, and in many of the numerous existing recordings of this opus one senses that the performers are actually neglecting, not to say negating, the real essence of the music.

However, each new *Four Seasons* recording with serious

musicians is reason for celebration.

And this one (Hanssler CD 98.107) is entirely different from many we are familiar with.

Brown presents a down to earth reading of the score.

There is much warmth, tenderness, and poetic beauty in her reading (listen for example to the

Winter Concerto), and there is a deep robust and loving sound to the orchestra she leads.

This is a performance of *The Four Seasons* that has it roots more in the classic tradition than in the baroque, and it is a most exciting performance exactly for these reasons.

Also on the disc are first-rate performances of the Vivaldi Concerto for Two Violins, and the same composer's Concerto for Four Violins.

On another disc, this one featuring six concerti grossi (Opus 3) by Handel (Hanssler 98.918), Brown leads the Academy with sound command and musical sincerity which creates a fabulous solid sound, suggesting that in this day and age Handel can still make sense even outside the authentic movement performance style.

Here, Brown emerges as a first rate leader who enjoys an ensemble of superb musicians that manages to capture the beauty of the music and present it to the listeners in all its dramatic colorfulness.



Iona Brown

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Founded in 1932 by GERSHON AGRON

EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O. Box 81, Romema, Jerusalem 9100 Telephone 02-531-5666, Fax 02-538-9527, CIRCULATION - 02-531-5610, Fax 02-538-9017, ADVERTISING - 02-531-5608, 02-531-5637-40 Fax 02-538-8408, TEL AVIV: 5 Rehov Hamaagar, POB 28398 (61283) Telephone 03-6390333, Fax 6390277, HAIFA 20 Nordau, Hadar Haacumi, Telephone 04-8623166, Published daily except Saturday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Jerusalem Post Ltd. Printed by The Jerusalem Post Press in Jerusalem. Registered at the G.P.O. © The Jerusalem Post 1996. Reproduction, or storage in a retrieval system, or in any other form, is prohibited without permission. Editors: 1932-1935 GERSHON AGRON, 1935-1974 TED LURIE, 1974-1975 LEA BEN-DOR, 1975-1989 ARI RATH and ERWIN FRENKEL, 1990-1992 N. DAVID GROSS, 1992-1996 DAVID BAR-ILLAN INTERNET EDITION: http://www.jpost.co.il General E-mail: jpedi@jpost.co.il Editorial E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il Subscriptions E-mail: sub@jpost.co.il

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Another failed appointment

IT was Meretz leader Yossi Sarid who said over the weekend that the only way Roni Bar-On could prove himself worthy of assuming the office of attorney-general would be by withdrawing from the post. While Sarid may have been talking tongue-in-cheek, Bar-On took seriously the reactions to the news of his appointment. His decision to resign last night was as prudent as it was prudent.

Bar-On said his resignation followed the personal attacks that came hard on the heels of his appointment - the radio yesterday was awash with allegations that Bar-On was a heavy gambler and that he was closely associated with a self-fulfillment cult, I Am, which was active in Israel a number of years ago. But these criticisms, while unpleasant for Bar-On personally, were essentially the least important of the charges raised against his appointment. As long as gambling overseas and personal exploration exercises are legal, there is nothing in these accusations to necessarily make him unfit for the post of attorney-general.

More serious were the criticisms concerning Bar-On's lack of legal stature, his overt political affiliation, and the fact that even within the cabinet, there was a clear lack of support for his appointment. As ministers Dan Meridor and Ze'ev Begin pointed out during Friday's cabinet meeting, an attorney-general cannot be a political lackey; the sensitivity of the post demands it be filled by a person of the highest legal caliber.

Bar-On, it is clear, fails to meet this criterion. While he may be a successful criminal lawyer, with some experience in the Jerusalem District Attorney's Office and the State Attorney's Office, and a member of the Bar Association's executive committee, his legal reputation among his peers is not one which commands the respect an attorney-general needs. It is worrisome that Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi was not sufficiently cognizant of this fact.

Indeed, the whole sorry episode surrounding Bar-On's appointment raises a number of worrying aspects of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's premiership, the most important being his seeming inability to learn from previous errors of judgment.

Netanyahu's seven months in power have been marked by a number of disastrous appointments, which have severely hampered the government's smooth running. His initial appointment of Pinhas Fishler, someone he knew barely, if at all, as his bureau chief quickly turned into a major embarrassment once details of the criminal complaints filed against Fishler became public knowledge. At the same time, and against the advice of then-attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair, Netanyahu pressed ahead with the appointment of Ya'acov Ne'eman as justice minister. Once again, this appointment

ended in an embarrassing resignation after Ben-Yair announced he was ordering an investigation into whether Ne'eman had interfered with the police investigation against MK Aryeh Deri. The appointment of Yisrael Hanokoglo as the premier's scientific adviser, while not actively damaging the government in any material way, caused waves of derision within the country's scientific community.

Given this list of unfortunate appointments, one would have hoped that Netanyahu would have listened to the wise counsel of some of the ministers thought to be close to him. Even if he was not prepared to listen to Meridor and Begin's arguments at Friday's cabinet meeting, where Bar-On's appointment was sprung on the ministers almost as an afterthought, it is a pity Netanyahu spurned the proposal by Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, among others, to postpone the vote for another week.

Unfortunately, Netanyahu's impetuosity, which has been the overriding characteristic of his political career - from his public admission of adultery; to supporting an Arab Knesset faction's motion of no-confidence in the Labor government over land expropriation in Jerusalem; to the opening of the exit of the Western Wall Tunnel - again got the better of him and he demanded an immediate vote. Once again, Netanyahu learned to his cost that speed is not always of the essence.

The prime minister and his justice minister are now arguing that the protests against Bar-On's appointment were inspired by political motives and that the wall-to-wall condemnation of their choice of attorney-general resembled nothing less than a witch-hunt. While the saying "even paranoids have real enemies" is particularly apposite for politicians, Netanyahu and Hanegbi have to understand that in this case, the choice of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general was simply a non-starter.

Were Bar-On to have the legal stature of, say, Meir Shamgar, a former attorney-general linked to the national camp, then his appointment as attorney-general would have gone unremarked. But once even Likud government ministers denounce the appointment on the grounds that the nominee is nothing more and nothing less than a political hack with a successful legal practice, then Netanyahu and Hanegbi should have paused for thought. The embarrassment of postponing a cabinet decision hardly matches the embarrassment of yet another key appointment that has fallen through.

In the early months of his tenure, teething problems were to be expected in a government headed by an inexperienced prime minister. By now, the country both expects and deserves better from its premier.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PEACE AT ANY COST

Sir, - Before discussing whether our government should continue with the Oslo Accords, I would like to quote from the London Times of December 15, 1938: "The war-mongers [Churchill and his supporters] - those who would make war against another country without having counted the cost - ought to be impeached and either shot or hanged... There has never been a prime minister in the histo-

ry of England who has in nine months achieved such agreements as those Mr. Chamberlain has made with Czechoslovakia, Italy and with Hitler at Munich."

Our "peace" agreement with Egypt is probably one of the coldest peace treaties in the world and not much better than our current agreement with Syria, i.e., one of no war rather than peace. The agreement with the Palestinian

Authority after over 300 murders is surely one of war rather than peace and as such, since we must at least try and learn from history, it is time all our leaders stop bluffing and call for an end to the ridiculous situation; peace at any cost will only cost a lot and bring no peace.

E. HIRSHFELD Ra'anana.

RAY OF SANITY

Sir, - The op-ed article by Mrs. Esther Waxman, "Too much in return for nothing" (December 13), is an eloquent and articulate rebuke to the many supposedly intelligent Israelis now "paying court" to Arafat. The duplicitous Arafat is an unregenerate terrorist who has made the

tactical (and, amazingly, successful) decision that his goals and objectives can be attained more expeditiously and easily if he projects a persona of conciliation and moderation. And he must be both surprised and delighted at the credulity and naivete manifested by Israeli and Western media and

politicians. Shouldn't those Israelis and world leaders be a bit mortified at being easily duped? Mrs. Waxman is a ray of sanity and reason in a dark and dangerous world.

FAY DICKER Brooklyn, N.Y.

TEARING OURSELVES APART

Sir, - What kind of people are we Jews? We savage our democratically elected prime minister before he can even get on his feet. Then he bleeds a little and all of the Israeli sharks swarm in for the kill, followed gleefully by the Arab and European sharks and finally the US. We expect double standards from the foreign press, but from our own? We expect antisemitism and anti-Israel posturing from France

or England, prodded by the Palestinians. But from our Labor Party? We expect Arafat to squeeze Netanyahu every chance he gets, to insult and throw temper tantrums when he doesn't get his way. But from our own Labor leadership, starting with Peres, and now from our own Histadrut? As an American Jew and part-time resident here, I am astounded

at the viciousness prevalent in both the Israeli political sector and the among the man in the street. As a Democrat, I despair that we can so easily tear ourselves apart with no thought of how difficult it is to put us back together. What kind of people have we become? And do we see where this is leading us?

JAY GAJNES Netanya, and Stamford, Conn.

PREPOSTEROUS IDEAS

many others) created a new relationship between official ideology and the land." "There arose," he continues, "an Israeli Blut and Boden (blood and soil) ideology which adopted the concept of 'blood sacrifice' for winning back the holy sites."

Blut and Boden was one of the basic tenets of Nazi racism and the analogy is as repugnant as it is deeply offensive not only for those with painful memories of the Nazi regime, but also for residents of Judea and Samaria and their supporters.

According to the book, Professor Zimmermann not only teaches history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem but also works on the curriculum for the teaching of history at Israeli

schools. His publishing the book not so very long after the original controversy seems to prove that, contrary to Mr. Ben-Yair's assumption, adverse reaction at the time did not prevent him from repeating the offense and can therefore not be regarded as "sufficient response."

No one means to deny Professor Zimmermann his democratic right of freedom of expression, but it is hardly a license to offend large sections of the public, and what guarantee is there that he does not use his position to implant his preposterous ideas into the minds of unsuspecting young Israelis?

R. WILLERS Wembley Park, Middx.

OPINION

Much more

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

IF it transpires that those who placed the charge came from the territory of the [Palestinian] Authority, we shall react very harshly.

This was the premier's first public reaction to last Thursday's terror attack in Tel Aviv.

I may be biased, but to me it sounded like a sigh of relief, like saying, "Thank God, I might finally have an excuse for not signing the Hebron agreement - or at least for delaying further progress in

military uniform and toting a gun, both formally issued him by the IDF, which should never have mobilized him in the first place.

Yes, we all know about Friedman's mental condition. But we should never forget that had the population of Israel been forced to live under the conditions endured by most Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the last 49 years, there would be thousands of Friedmans.

Equality should be Israel's theme with the Palestinians

The Israeli-Palestinian settlement. As far as we know, those who placed the two primitive charges in two waste bins near the old central bus station could have come from anywhere.

I, for one, would be far more worried if it transpired that the terrorist(s) came from territories under full Israeli control, or from Israel proper.

Why, after all, should Israel "react very harshly" if he they came from the territories?

Suppose that after Israeli soldier Noam Friedman shot Arabs in Hebron two weeks ago Chairman Arafat had stated: "If it transpires that the man who started shooting in Hebron came from the sovereign territory of Israel, we shall react very harshly?"

Not only did Friedman come from Israel, he came dressed in

OF COURSE it is vital that our security forces find out who carried out last week's terrorist act, where they came from, and who sent them.

But how's this for a basic premise: The more people on both sides who accept that the only way we can all live securely in this region is as equals, side-by-side with each other, each nation in its own state, the smaller the number of potential terrorists on both sides will be.

Fortunately, in the last decade, a majority on both sides seems to have accepted this.

But the number on the other side who accept the principle of coexistence won't increase if, every time a bomb goes off, we react by collectively punishing the whole Palestinian population.

There will always be some Palestinians - and Israelis - who refuse to accept compromise and coexistence, and both sides will always have their Noam Friedmans, willing to ape the ideological fanatics.

While we mustn't sit back and

Dry Bones

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accept the inevitability of terrorist attacks, we should not forget that being tougher than we already are with the PA and its population isn't going to do away with the causes of terror.

Traffic accidents claim close to 600 lives here annually. In combating terror we must not seek revenge, but do like those who are fighting the accident rate and look

for the underlying causes. After seven months in the Prime Minister's Office Netanyahu must have learned that he can get much more out of Arafat by dealing with the Palestinians as equal negotiating partners than by making irrelevant macho noises.

The writer is a political scientist.

Grapes of Wrath revisited

GERALD M. STEINBERG

THE pace of Hizbullah attacks and IDF retaliation in south Lebanon is quickening again, and the impact of last year's Operation Grapes of Wrath in Lebanon is still being hotly debated.

Some military officials and analysts argue that the massive IDF effort that followed the attacks on Israeli civilians and soldiers strengthened Hizbullah. Others point to the Israeli campaign, including the attacks in Beirut, as an effective deterrent against another major round of conflict.

In considering options for a response to the current situation, the case for both these views should be studied.

Those who argue that Shimon Peres's pre-election military campaign did more damage than good (and did not prevent his defeat in May) point to the increased strength of Hizbullah and its allies in south Lebanon.

The Iranian-supported and trained fundamentalists reportedly now control at least 90 percent of the south Lebanese population, leaving only a very small wedge of villages aligned with Israel. Hundreds of local residents provide information used in preparing attacks.

This wider support network has enabled Hizbullah to increase its intelligence capabilities regarding the movements and operations of IDF forces in the region. The terrorists are also able to move more freely, mounting effective attacks and causing greater Israeli losses.

Iranian deliveries of weapons to Hizbullah forces in Lebanon have also increased, with reports of large-scale shipments of anti-tank missiles and longer-range Katyushas via Damascus and Cyprus.

The Iranian foreign minister's visit to Damascus a few weeks

ago signified the increasing cooperation between the fundamentalist regime in Teheran and that of Syrian President Assad.

These deliveries have enabled Hizbullah to replenish its stockpiles and build new underground storage sites, allowing it to withstand Israeli air attacks. In addition, newer and more powerful anti-tank weapons and rocket

launchers have enhanced Hizbullah's military options.

Yet these developments provide an incomplete and potentially misleading picture.

LAST YEAR'S Operation Grapes of Wrath did hurt Hizbullah significantly, exposing its vulnerabilities.

The operation ended suddenly after the IDF mistakenly shelled a UN camp where hundreds of civilians had sought refuge. Hizbullah terrorists had used the outskirts of the camp to fire rockets into Israel, drawing a massive artillery response.

This tragedy, and Peres's planned trip to Washington designed to bolster his election campaign, ended the IDF attacks prematurely.

At the time, the IDF succeeded in finding and destroying a number of terrorist ammunition storage sites, and brought activity in Hizbullah strongholds to a halt.

There is good reason to con-

clude that in another round, without the political limits dictated by elections, the Netanyahu government would maintain pressure longer and pursue the Hizbullah forces with even greater intensity.

In Grapes of Wrath the politicians and investors in Beirut were reminded of the cost of allowing fundamentalist terrorists to operate freely.

Hizbullah may have increased its capabilities in south Lebanon, but it is more vulnerable than it was last year

The deep bombing raids in Beirut, including the attack on power stations after a transformer in Kiryat Shmona was hit by Hizbullah rockets, constituted a considerable setback to the efforts to rebuild Lebanon and Beirut, particularly after the long civil war.

The tens of billions of dollars that have been invested in this reconstruction effort by Lebanon's leading families, including the prime minister's, were put at risk. Beirut was cut off from south Lebanon, and hundreds of thousands of refugees moved into the capital.

Since then, there have been signs of tension in Beirut, including protests against the Syrian occupation and even bombings against Syrian targets.

Another, more extensive, round of fighting in Lebanon would be very costly, frightening off investors and stopping the reconstruction program.

The Lebanese leadership is advertising Lebanon as "open for

business again," but further IDF raids would have a more powerful impact than any PR could.

Investors would lose hundreds of millions of dollars. Lebanon's efforts to get taken off the US government's list of dangerous locations (US passport holders are still not allowed to enter the country without a special waiver) would be halted.

Hundreds of thousands of Syrian workers employed in reconstruction projects would suddenly be out of work, becoming a liability for the government in Damascus. The level of tension between Beirut and Damascus would climb.

Both the Lebanese and Syrian leaderships have a strong interest in preventing renewed fighting from reaching the level of last year's campaign. They know that if the IDF is provoked, the response will last longer and be more intensive than Grapes of Wrath.

If fighting begins, escalation could not be ruled out. Ultimately, instability and conflict could also weaken Syria's control of Lebanon, reviving the local opposition to the Syrian occupation.

Hizbullah may have increased its tactical and operational capabilities in south Lebanon; but in a wider sense, both politically and militarily, it is more vulnerable than last year.

The risks of escalation are high. If the attacks continue Syria, Iran, and Hizbullah could come under pressure from both outside and inside Lebanon to reach an agreement with Israel, one that would disarm the terrorists and allow the IDF finally to withdraw.

The writer is a senior associate at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies.

And never the twain shall meet?

JEREMY MAISSEL

SHOWING films on airline flights can be compared to the gas chambers in the Nazi extermination camps.

This startling statement appeared in a recent issue of Hamodia, the official organ of Agudat Yisrael, provoking strong censure from Dr. Yosef Burg, chairman of Yad Vashem, and Labor MKs Ofer Pines and Yossi Katz for a cheap and cynical use of Holocaust terminology.

Since the haredim cannot be accused of naive, how is one to interpret their choice of comparison?

I recently picked up the pop-psychology best-seller Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus, in which John Gray maps out the sexes' differing natures and ways of expression, and offers a practical guide for improving communication between them.

Gray's theoretical model set me thinking. As the title suggests, his starting point is that men and women come from two different planets, and therefore cannot expect to understand each other without special effort.

Why not, I asked myself, adopt Gray's model for our religious-secular conflict? The haredim could come from Saturn, shabbtai in Hebrew. The link to Shabbat makes it an apt choice.

The secularists could be from Jupiter. As the biggest and brightest planet in the solar system, it is associated with the ruler of the gods in Roman mythology. The planet's Hebrew name is tzadek - justice - a concept every good secularist holds supreme.

Now we have our model - so let's go ahead and look at the haredi psyche as it developed over there on Saturn.

Secondly, haredi Holocaust statements are designed to shock - both secular Jews and the haredi community itself.

Since the first days of the state the religious parties have held the balance of political power, and they are expert at exploiting their position. They want to be in the headlines if they feel it benefits them and undermines their power.

But Hamodia was also telling its

readers in the strongest possible terms: Don't watch films on flights - it spells tragedy for our culture.

Talking about haredi pronouncements for internal consumption, take the harangues heard at that mass haredi demonstration in Tel Aviv, billed as aiming to prevent Shabbat desecration by secular Tel Avivians.

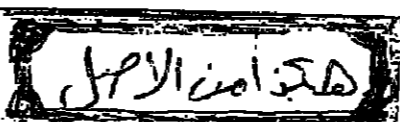
Now the chance of such a gathering persuading any recalcitrant to mend his ways is slight - but the impressive show of haredi numbers strengthened the demonstrators considerably. And remember how Shas MK

Shlomo Benizri tried to gag Gil Kopatch's weekly televised Torah portion? Secular scoffed, noting that Kopatch got free publicity; but many failed to see how Benizri's stock rose among haredim as a defender of Torah values against the secular destroyers.

SO HOW do Saturnians and Jupitarians learn to communicate? First, by recognizing the need to tread carefully, and by developing mutual respect. And language is a good place to begin.

Each community might well see members of the other as aliens. But they have no choice. If religious and secular do not learn to communicate with each other, we could soon witness a veritable war of the worlds.

The writer, a religious educator, is a member of Kibbutz Alumim.



The Nation

In the Market We Trust

Common stocks, as such, are not superior to bonds as long-term investments, because primarily they are not investments at all. They are speculations.

— "Investments and Speculations," by Lawrence Chamberlain and William W. Hay, published by Henry Holt in 1931.

The more data we analyze, the more confident we are that stocks are superior long-term investments. In the long run, the true risk resides with fixed-income investments, not with common stocks.

— "Stocks for the Long Run," by Jeremy J. Siegel, published by Irwin in 1994.

By FLOYD NORRIS

THE American view of financial risks and opportunities has come a long way in six decades.

Four years after Lawrence Chamberlain, a respected investment banker, warned that stocks could not even be deemed an investment, the Social Security system was born as a way of providing an assured means of support for elderly Americans. Money would be raised by taxes on working Americans and, to the extent not needed to pay immediate benefits, invested in safe government bonds.

In 1935, memories of the 1929 crash were fresh. No one suggested that the road to safety led through buying common stocks.

Now, three years after Jeremy J. Siegel, a finance professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, published his influential book, a commission has recommended to Congress that the Social Security system be partly financed by common stock investments. It split on important details, but on the central thesis it came down solidly with Mr. Siegel: Stocks are safe, for in the long run they always go up. Bonds, including government bonds, whose real value can be eroded by inflation, are the risky asset.

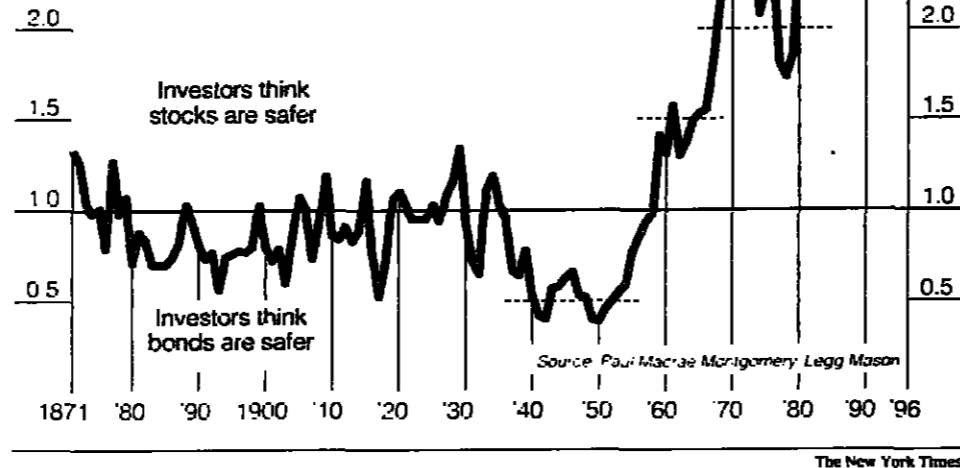
The change has come slowly, with some converting early and some not at all. The stock market gained adherents in the 1950's and 1960's, then lost them in the 1970's, when inflation scared many investors away from all securities, and briefly into such hard assets as gold and diamonds. But since 1982, the start of a bull market with few historical rivals, the academic work showing that stocks are the best long-term investment has gained widespread acceptance.

Accordingly, investors have been willing to pay more and more for stocks, feeling secure in the knowledge that they will do well in the long run, even if prices fall over shorter periods of time.

One way to measure the changing attitudes is to look at the relative level of

The Sweet Smell of Stocks

The relative yield from dividends on a diversified portfolio of industrial stocks compared with interest from high-quality corporate bonds. A figure of 1 shows the two yield the same. Figures below 1 show that stocks yield more, indicating that investors demand a high dividend to offset the risk of investing in stocks. Figures above 1 show stock dividends are less than the interest from bonds, indicating that investors expect increases in stock prices will make up the difference. Figures are annual averages.



dividends on stocks compared with interest rates on bonds. Investors have the choice of buying bonds, with a guaranteed interest rate and certainty (barring default) of getting their principal back when the bond matures, or of buying stocks, with a less certain yield from dividends and the possibility that the stock's price could rise or fall.

25-Year Recovery

But as the widely forecast post-World War II depression failed to occur, investors gradually became more and more willing to buy stocks, and stocks became more expensive relative to bonds. In 1954, the Dow Jones industrial average finally got back to its pre-crash high of 381.17. There was nervous commentary, but no crash.

Then, in 1958, there was much hand-wringing over the fact that the dividend yield on stocks was now actually lower than the bond

yield. A scary article in Business Week was titled "An Evil Omen Returns." It warned that stock yields had been below bond yields back in 1929, and look what happened.

But it didn't happen again. It was not until the 1970's that stocks again performed badly over a long period. And after prices began to soar again in 1982, academics gradually produced what they viewed as proof that rising stock prices, in the long run, were inevitable. That gospel has been proclaimed in newspapers, personal finance magazines and on countless television shows.

Now the interest you can get on a high-quality corporate bond is about four times the dividend yield on the stocks in the Standard & Poor's industrial average, but most on Wall Street figure that is irrelevant. Companies can return money to shareholders by repurchasing shares, and in any case it is the prospect of rising prices, not dividend income, that draws in buyers. "It's a sea change in attitudes," says Paul Macrae Montgomery, a strategist at Legg Mason, the brokerage house.

"The Jeremy Siegel book hit at exactly the right moment," Peter L. Bernstein, a founding editor of The Journal of Portfolio Management, said last week. Now the expected return from stocks is seen as "a reliable projection," he said. "I think that is just extraordinary," he added.

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In 1936, Social Security was young, and the nation freshly burned by the stock market.

Last week, in The Wall Street Journal, Jonathan Clements, a columnist, confronted the question of what a parent should do if he had all the savings for his daughter's college education invested in stocks, only to have her go to college in one of those rare periods when stock prices had fallen substantially. Mr. Clements's response: Pay the tuition with borrowed money: "while you wait for stocks to bounce back."

that stocks are the best long-term investments may persuade investors to bid up share prices until they are dangerously overvalued, much as happened in the 1920's. Mr. Siegel admits that it is possible but says share prices would have to rise another 25 percent or so, to perhaps 8,000, for him to be really concerned. Still, he is not enthusiastic about the idea of putting Social Security money into stocks. "Suppose we came to a 10-year period when the return on stocks is not good," he said. "They happen."

Historical Creations

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The Devil Is in The Trial Details

Continued From Page 1

ferent for many reasons. There aren't so many restrictions on evidence in a civil proceeding. Mr. Simpson faces different opponents, represented by different (and most say better) lawyers. The judges have different ideas about what jurors should hear. The plaintiffs' lawyers, having watched the prosecutors, have learned a great deal about what not to do, and witnesses have learned what not to say. And new fragments of information have been found.

The question of exactly what happened on June 12, 1994, will probably never be answered in court because a trial is often not so much a dispassionate inquiry as it is a morality play. At best it is an attempt to recapture events that were ambiguous in the first place; at worst it is a contest between opposing public relations machines, each trying to sell its own stylized version of reality.

It is, in any event, a game. "If one side makes a mistake, it has to live with the mistake, even if it terribly distorts the outcome," said Burt Neuborne, a professor at the New York University Law School. "The feeling is that the outcome is less important than the process, than defending the adversary process in the long run."

Living with a mistake ordinarily means forfeiting evidence. In Mr. Simpson's criminal trial, prosecutors couldn't present their finding that carpet fibers at the crime scene had to be from a 1993 or 1994 Bronco (Mr. Simpson's was a 1994) because, in violation of court rules, they failed to give their report to the defense.

In criminal trials, prosecutors cannot use evidence gathered in an improper search, and they cannot call the defendant to the stand. In both civil and criminal trials, evidence can be excluded because it is hearsay (that's what Judge Lance Ito ruled about the phone call to the women's shelter), or because it is deemed irrelevant (as Judge Fujisaki decided about Mark Fuhrman), or so prejudicial that it would mislead the jury (as both judges concluded about some accounts of wife-battering by Mr. Simpson).

Most lawyers and legal scholars believe such editing serves the truth in the long run. Even more say it

serves justice in the long run — that excluding evidence is the only means of forcing police and prosecutors to comply with the law, and insuring that a defendant is judged only for the act with which he is charged.

Still, the American system is remarkable for its restrictive trial rules. Most countries' courts admit information more informally and give judges a much bigger role, cutting short the laborious process of posing questions and objections. In Europe, Mr. Langbein said, "you're looking at a legal system so much fairer, cheaper and more accurate than ours that they view us the way we view witch doctors."

What Jurors Want

European judges routinely ask for a defendant's record of crimes, or what American law calls, more generally, "bad acts." American jurors want to know about them, too, to judge from the comments of those who deadlocked in the recent trial of Alex Kelly, who was charged with raping a 16-year-old girl in Connecticut. Only later did they learn, to their dismay, that a second girl had accused him of a similar attack.

But James F. Flanagan, a professor at the University of South Carolina Law School, argues that a prior conviction is not usually such useful information anyway. "The question before the jury is whether the individual did this act," he said.

Besides, Mr. Flanagan said, juries hear plenty of facts, which stretch only so far. Mr. Simpson's lawyers must have appreciated that, he said, when confronted with the photographs of the Bruno Maglis: "They got whopped by reality evidence."

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The World

Seoul Takes Its Cue From Mrs. Thatcher

By ANDREW POLLACK

WHEN South Korea enacted its basic labor laws in 1953, it was in the midst of the Korean War. Communist North Korea claimed that it was a worker's paradise. To counteract this, South Korea provided such generous worker benefits as a near guarantee of lifetime employment and a one-day-a-month paid menstruation leave for women.

Today, North Korea is an economic basket case and a prosperous South Korea faces very different rivals. It finds itself economically sandwiched between other

South Korea confronts labor to keep its economy competitive.

Asian countries with lower wages, like China and Indonesia, and advanced nations with higher technology, like Japan. And there is a widespread feeling among businesses and the Government that in this era of global competition the old largess can no longer be afforded.

This sense of economic crisis is, to some extent, at the root of the widespread strikes that have paralyzed some South Korean industries for more than two weeks and have provoked violent clashes between strikers and police.

Worried that Korea is becoming internationally uncompetitive, the Government is trying to shake off a pattern of long, sometimes violent strikes that have made this nation the world leader in labor strife for the last 10 years and have led to wage increases that have averaged 15 percent a year over the same period.

To end these strikes, in late December President Kim Young Sam's ruling party passed new laws making it easier to dismiss workers and replace strikers.

Downsizing is about to come to Korea. "There is no country in the world except Korea where annual wages continued to rise

15 percent a year for the past 10 years," Jin Nyum, the Minister of Labor, said Friday. "At this point, one can't help asking, 'Can the Korean economy continue like this?'"

So far, the result of this attempt to establish a new pattern of labor-management relations has merely been a return to the strikes of old, but on a larger scale than ever.

But President Kim thinks he can take on the powerful unions now, even in an election year, because he believes the public is more worried about the future of the economy than about workers' rights.

And so he has been standing tough, much as former President Ronald Reagan did when he faced down striking air traffic controllers in 1981 and as Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher did in Britain when she stood firm against striking miners in 1985.

But President Kim may be making a miscalculation, and indeed the Government on Saturday seemed to be scrambling to soften its stance.

It is true that in South Korea there is a sense that the nation's economic miracle is ebbing. Economic growth has fallen to about 8 percent a year, which would be the envy of many nations but is less than the 8 or 9 percent growth the nation is accustomed to.

Korea's trade deficit has ballooned to record levels. And the stock market is languishing at close to its lowest level in four years.

"Structurally, I think we've come to the end of the effectiveness of the existing paradigm," said Park Ungsuh, president of the Samsung Economic Research Institute.

Still, it would be incorrect to attribute too much of the nation's woes to overpaid workers. Over-regulation of business by the Government is considered an even bigger cause of economic sclerosis.

Radical Changes

Despite what might have been written in the labor law, Korean workers have not really been pampered.

For most of the period since the Korean War, hours were long, working conditions were often poor and wages, until recently, were low. During the 1960's, the 1970's and the first half of the 1980's, authoritarian governments suppressed workers' ability to organize unions or to go on strike.

Things began to change radically in 1987,



A South Korean striker set himself on fire Friday to protest new labor laws. He lived, but suffered burns over 30 percent of his body.

with the stirrings of democracy. As if a lid had been lifted on pent-up frustrations, workers erupted in numerous, often violent strikes that were in turn suppressed by the arrests of the strikers. The number of strikes has dropped in recent years, in part because companies have given in to demands for big wage increases.

Daewoo Electronics, for instance, now pays its Korean factory workers more than workers in its factory in Britain, even though Britain is a much wealthier country, said Bae Soonhoon, Daewoo's president.

Because of the high wages at home in South Korea, Daewoo has begun moving its consumer electronics manufacturing to lower-wage nations in Asia and Latin America.

But Dr. Bae concedes that with South Korea's economy growing, its labor supply tight and big companies fighting for market share, keeping the factories running has been the priority.

"I cannot do anything," he said. "If they ask for more money I have to pay more, because if I don't they don't work. And the loss from not delivering product is higher

than the loss from higher production costs. So I give more."

While many analysts might agree with the need to keep wages in check and allow for greater flexibility in trimming work forces, they note that this was not supposed to be the only purpose of the new law.

What the Law Left Out

As originally envisioned, the law was intended to change the whole labor-management relationship from one of confrontation to one of cooperation.

In addition to helping management, the law was meant to enhance the rights of workers to unionize and to bring South Korea into conformity with international labor standards. Teachers and other public employees were to be given the right to organize and more than one union was to be permitted at a company.

But because of fears that granting such rights would lead to disruptions, the law that was actually enacted postponed some of these reforms or left them out.

"The Government is trying to focus on efficiency only, disregarding rights," said Park Young Ki, director of the Institute for Labor and Management at Sogang University.

This is starting to backfire on the Government. It is helping to bring religious groups, academics, opposition lawmakers, civic groups and international human rights and labor groups into the controversy on the side of the striking workers. This is the major reason the Government seems to be starting to explore a compromise.

But even from the point of view of economic competitiveness, a policy that alienates workers might be shortsighted. Korea has left the development stage, where it is competing on low wages, and entering the stage where it must compete on productivity and product quality.

"We can improve the productivity rate and product quality when workers are highly motivated," said Professor Park of Sogang University. "If they are not happy it will reflect negatively in their products, and that's a disaster."

Impugning Immunity

Diplomats Who Do Wrong

By STEVEN LEE MYERS

IN 1982, a North Korean diplomat grabbed a woman's breasts in a park in Eastchester, outside New York City, and then holed up in his country's mission to the United Nations for 10 months, before he finally pleaded guilty to a minor charge and left. A few years later, the Ambassador of Papua-New Guinea plowed his car into four others on Wisconsin Avenue here. Though alleged to have been soused, he went home with impunity. More recently, Uganda's Ambassador was nabbed by customs agents in Florida as he was trying to smuggle home antitank weapons. He, too, left the country.

The Indignant Public

There is no new crime wave emanating from foreign embassies, missions and consulates around the United States. But every couple of years or so, a few cases catch the public's indignant eye and the State Department has to defend a basic principle of foreign relations that occasionally flies in the face of the American sense of justice: diplomatic immunity.

It is a principle, cemented by treaty, whose roots stretch not only to the earliest days of the United States but to the ancient Greeks and the Pharaohs. And yet the very idea is attacked virtually every time it is invoked in this country to shield foreign diplomats — or their husbands, wives, sons and daughters — who have done something wrong.

Now two highly publicized incidents have fueled the furor again.

In the first, two diplomats in New York City, a Russian and a Belarussian accredited to the United Nations, scuffled with police officers trying to ticket their car, parked in front of a fire hydrant. Everything about the confrontation on Dec. 29 — from the amount of dry white wine the Russian drank at lunch to the behavior of the officers — remains in dispute.

Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, whose famously determined style can turn even minor events into international incidents, accused the diplomats of attacking the officers, demanded their immediate expulsion and reminded the world of their embassies' refusal to pay parking fines. The Governments of Russia and Belarussia demanded an investigation and an apology.

The second, far more serious incident involved the death of a teen-age girl. According to the police, on Jan. 3, the second-ranking diplomat from the Republic of Georgia's Embassy in Washington drove into a car waiting at a red light, knocking it into a third, in which the girl was a passenger. The diplomat, the police said, had been drinking and driving wildly.

Within days, the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia concluded there was ample evidence to charge the diplomat, Gueorgui Makharadze, with a crime, perhaps even murder in the second degree. The State Department immediately called on Georgia's President, Eduard A. Shevardnadze, to lift the diplomat's immunity, as did the White House.



Gueorgui Makharadze, a Republic of Georgia diplomat, was involved in this fatal accident.

It looked, for a while, as if this was the case that would at last shatter the principle of immunity. Senator Judd Gregg of New Hampshire declared it time to rethink immunity for serious crimes and called on President Clinton to suspend \$30 million in aid to Georgia if Mr. Makharadze did not stand trial. "American taxpayers should not have to send tens of millions of dollars to a country that would use a legal technicality to

When a rule of foreign relations offends the public's sense of justice.

harbor a drunk driver responsible for the death of a young woman," said Senator Gregg, the chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee that oversees the State Department.

By Friday, though, the debate was defused. After a personal appeal from Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Mr. Shevardnadze announced that Georgia would waive immunity in the interest of bilateral relations and "on moral and ethical grounds." It is still unclear when or if Mr. Makharadze will face charges.

The great popular misconception about diplomatic immunity is that it gives foreign envoys license to misbehave — from parking at bus stops to committing rape or murder. In fact, the treaty that codified immunity into international law, the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, requires diplomats to obey the law

of the land wherever they are posted.

But to protect diplomats from harassment the treaty forbids any country to force a diplomat to appear in court. (There are exceptions, including any diplomat serving as an estate executor or engaged in commercial activity.)

The United States has recognized immunity since 1790, but after a series of highly publicized cases, it has taken steps to restrict it, limiting it to the most senior diplomats and their families.

Only 18,000 or so foreigners have full immunity in the United States, and very few of them have ever committed crimes. In 1995, the last year for which the State Department has a full accounting, there were 17 cases where diplomats faced charges of felonies or misdemeanors involving violence. And of those, only six were serious enough to end in expulsions.

Is the Dog Immune, Too?

Still, the occasional rogue deliberately commits crimes with knowing impunity. In New York, immunity has protected scores of diplomats and their missions who have refused to pay their bills. And occasionally the principle is pushed to absurdity. In the 1970's, Barbados's delegate to the United Nations tried to extend diplomatic immunity to his dog, a German shepherd accused of biting his neighbors. More recently, Mozambique's deputy representative to the United Nations waived his immunity in order to take his American wife to divorce court, only to invoke it again after he lost their \$5 million estate in Greenwich, Conn., in the proceedings. He appealed all the way to the Supreme Court, but she got the house.

Corruption Lite, Today's Junk Food

Continued From Page 1

dwelted on Oliver North's damn-the-torpedoes personality and his acceptance of a free security fence. White-water raises serious, if belated, moral questions about the Clintons' willingness to use friends and political connections for personal enrichment and power; public debate has become hopelessly enmeshed in technical questions about cattle futures and real estate cash flow.

Defense procurement, a trillion-dollar issue beyond anyone's easy grasp, is reduced to \$600 toilet seats and \$7,000 coffeemakers. The issue of Clarence Thomas's fitness to sit on the Supreme Court degenerates into bickering over an alleged public hair on an alleged can of Coca-Cola.

The problem is not that politicians and the public cannot understand or debate weighty public matters. The battle over Judge Robert Bork's suitability for the Supreme Court was exceedingly bitter, but mostly on point. The early Congressional hearings on Whitewater, on whether the White House was improperly apprised of Federal inquiries into the Clintons' business dealings, were both revealing and devastating.

Nor should anyone be faulted for seizing on metaphors — bounced checks at the House of Representatives bank, say — to represent larger truths like political arrogance. Scandals have always been reduced to metaphors: a vicuna coat, an oil-filled dome, a secretary who cannot type.

It is when scandal becomes a one-size-fits-all affair, experts say, that it loses its moral punch. The distinction between right and wrong has been fudged in more places than Washington. But the forces at work here, some experts say, have been especially powerful.

Watergate was one of them: Richard Nixon's fall ushered in an era of mutual suspicion between journalists and the people they cover, and legitimized public disclosure of politicians' finances and conflicts of interest.

Public lives have become far more transparent, and wrongdoing has become easier to find — and maybe less outrageous as a result.

Watergate introduced another concept to the scandal business: the "smoking gun" as the standard of proof for misbehavior. The public and journalists mostly abandoned old-fashioned moral judgments about political behavior for more ob-

jective legal standards.

But the legal system is adversarial, not fixed, and in the hands of a good lawyer the law can be both incredibly flexible and indifferent to morality. What the Harvard political scientist and ethics expert Dennis F. Thompson calls "institutional scandal" thrives under a smoking-gun standard: corrupted systems like the Federal campaign-spending structure go unchallenged because they are technically legal and publicly disclosed.

"That culture of legalism makes us put everything in terms of a criminal paradigm — did somebody do something intentionally, and did it harm some identifiable individual?" Mr. Thompson said.

The TV Effect

But the most powerful agent of change may be television. Television remade politics by weakening political parties, raising financial stakes and rewarding candidates with the money and stage presence to build their personal followings.

"Television made scandal much more common," said Mr. Schneider. "Politicians figured out that the way to get ahead was to build their own personal following: people don't support an ideology, a philosophy, a party; they support you. And that means that if you want to destroy your political enemy, you have to do it personally. You have to cut off their personal following, which means making them look like crooks and thieves and liars."

And so charges of ethical misdeeds have become a staple of political campaigns, cheapening them and contributing to the public belief that all politicians are corrupt.

Mostly, they are. And, Mr. Josephson of the Josephson Ethics Institute adds, so are too many non-politicians. Check-bouncers are not confined to the customer base of the House bank, and lying and puffery are not restricted to Capitol Hill.

Mr. Josephson argues without much hope that voters should stop trivializing political scandal and learn once more to make judgments about right and wrong.

"When we judge most people's character, we have what I call a 'disqualifying point,'" he said, "some point at which you say, 'This person is so unsavory to me that I wouldn't vote for him for anything.' But it's also possible to have someone you see flaws in and object to, yet you don't decide to fire them."

AP Photo/John J. ...

ECONOMY

This Lead Dog Still Barks, but Has a Bit Less Bite

BY ADAM BRYANT

LAST month, Robert L. Crandall, the famously combative chairman of American Airlines, sounded a note of conciliation.

In a long interview in which he discussed the airline industry's prospects, as well as his own, the 61-year-old Mr. Crandall talked like a man who had grown more tolerant of a world that has never quite snapped to attention as precisely or as profitably as he wanted.

"The passage of time," he said over breakfast during a trip to New York, "has probably made me a little more understanding that you can't always move as rapidly as you'd like."

A stinging defeat last week will put that understanding to the test. It was supposed to have been a good week for Mr. Crandall, the captain of a series of bold moves over the last year.

Riding a strong industry comeback from the huge losses of the early 90's, Mr. Crandall trumpeted a big marketing alliance with British Airways last summer, saw his Sabre travel information subsidiary go public in a popular stock offering in October and placed an order in November for more than \$6 billion worth of Boeing jets, American's first sizable order since the 1960's.

But Mr. Crandall made the Boeing deal contingent on his winning approval by American's pilots of a four-year contract that union leaders tentatively agreed to last fall. Without the contract, which put a

tight cap on wage increases through 2000, the new planes could not be flown profitably and the order would be off, Mr. Crandall said — a development that would restrict American's future growth.

On Wednesday, the pilots did not blink: by a 2-to-1 margin, they rejected the pact.

With company earnings strong again — American's parent, the Dallas-based AMR Corporation, is expected to report record profits of about \$350 million for 1996 — the pilots say they are in no mood for similar criticism over the years for his lobbying efforts in Washington, where he has also been given to making threats when a policy decision did not go his way.

"Bob has outsmarted his competition, but he does have an unfortunate history of failing to build consensus in Washington and with his work force — that's been his Achilles' heel," said Clark H. Onstad, a former chief counsel at the Federal Aviation Administration and now a senior executive at Atlas Air, a cargo carrier in Golden, Colo.

Mr. Crandall said late last week that he was disappointed by the pilots' vote. "It's very disheartening, he said. "We negotiated with these guys for more than two years. The agreement is by any objective measure the best contract in the industry."

A spokesman for American, Robert A. Britton, said, "Clearly our goal is to reach an agreement with the union, preferably sooner rather than later."

Boeing apparently is willing to wait, at least for a while, for the pilots and Mr. Crandall to patch things up, although it is not clear how long the company will be able to commit part of its production capacity to the large order without a go-ahead. Under the terms of the now-postponed deal, American agreed to buy planes exclusively from Boeing for the next two decades in return for quick delivery and discounted prices. In a statement on Thursday, Boeing expressed confidence that an agreement with the pilots would be reached in the "near term" and that the plane order would then go forward.

Investors seem willing to bide their time, as well. Shares in AMR were off marginally on the day after the vote, falling \$1.50, to \$86.625. The stock finished the week at \$85.125, down \$1.50.

As Mr. Crandall begins his glide path toward retirement, last week's setback was a fitting addition to the twists and turns of his storied career, a mix of industry milestones and misuses.

Since Mr. Crandall took over as president in 1980 — he became chairman and chief executive in 1985 — American's innovations have ranged from frequent-flyer mileage to computer reservation systems to sophisticated software for setting fares. "If you're not the lead dog," he is fond of saying, "the view never changes."

But there have been times when he has demanded the lead-dog position and the rest of the team has not followed.

In 1992, he tried to force on the entire industry his so-called value-pricing idea — a drastic change in the way fares are structured that eliminated deep discounts to big corporate customers. He made no effort to build consensus in advance, and his competitors and customers balked. Within months, he declared the idea dead.

Mr. Crandall, said Mr. Onstad, the former F.A.A. counsel, has had "a large number of imitators, but very few followers."

It is a problem that even Mr. Crandall recognizes. "Nobody wants to hear about it," he says of his opposition to the widespread practice of code sharing, under which two airlines market flights jointly in the computer reservation system. Mr. Crandall says that the practice is deceptive to consumers, who can book a flight on one airline only to wind up on another, and that he has reluctantly joined the trend so American can remain competitive.

Some day, Mr. Crandall said, people will wonder why they did not listen to him.

Plenty of people were listening in the early 80's, when Mr. Crandall instituted a two-tier wage contract, expanded the airline's hub-and-spoke system and invested about \$20 billion in new planes and other equipment. Those moves enabled him to expand more rapidly than his competitors. By the end of that decade, the industry was making money and Mr. Crandall was lauded in the me-

dia as one of the toughest but most effective bosses in the country.

"American Takes On the World," read the headline on a cover article of Fortune magazine in September 1990.

But in the early 90's, a big decline in travel prompted by the Persian Gulf war, combined with overambitious expansion, plunged the cyclical airline industry into its deepest trough ever, causing it to lose billions upon billions of dollars.

American's stock, which reached a high of \$107 a share in 1989, tumbled during this period and has yet to recover completely. For some time now, investors have held the company to a different standard from other airlines. While American is widely perceived as a well-run company that occasionally blunders — sometimes badly — most other major airlines are viewed these days as in need of a turnaround or as recent turnaround successes. That is why the stock prices of newly rejuvenated airline companies like Continental and UAL, the parent of United, have far outpaced American's in terms of percentage gains.

American is a more steady performer, said Kevin C. Murphy, an industry analyst at Morgan Stanley. "They didn't have much low-hanging fruit to pick."

At the industry's nadir, in the early 1990's, Mr. Crandall saw labor costs as American's big problem. Those costs left the airline's competitive position so bleak, he said then, that the company might have to shrink sharply and perhaps even largely abandon the airline business for subsidiary operations. The pilots had their own ideas about fixing American, and they commissioned a study in 1993 to suggest ways to run things better.

Mr. Crandall's frustration and impatience boiled over. In a meeting that September with analysts in New York, Mr. Crandall said the pilots' plan would ruin the airline. That plan, never adopted, would have used more American planes for shuttle-type service.

"If the pilots were in charge, Columbus would still be in port," he had said. "They believe the assertion that the world is flat."

Such remarks served only to widen the gulf between the two sides, many industry experts said. And Mr. Crandall, whose analytical skills helped him win many a debate, has not been able to convince the pilots of much recently.

"People who want to preserve unnatural work restrictions or unnatural inefficiencies are kidding themselves," he said at last month's breakfast meeting, his first wide-ranging interview in more than two years. "I get very impatient with them."

He added: "My inability to persuade them that their self-interest is oriented toward growth, even if growth has to occur in ways that they think are not optimal, is very frustrating. My frustrations are completely a reflection of my desire to see the airline do more and do better."

American's pilots earn more than most of their counterparts at United States carriers, according to Air Inc., a career consulting firm for pilots. While the American pilots start out low, earning less than \$30,000 a year, they can get more than \$200,000 a year by the time they retire, at age 60. Over a 30-year career that began in 1996, they would average \$125,000 annually (in current dollars), not including other benefits or retirement plans, Air Inc. said. American's profit-sharing plan is also among the most generous in the industry.

Many pilots said their vote last week was for higher pay and against the company's desire to introduce jets to the fleet of its American Eagle commuter subsidiary, fearing that the planes would be used to take over some of their routes, thereby threatening their jobs. (The pilots at American Eagle are represented by a different union.)

They said the vote was not meant as a rebuke of Mr. Crandall, who, in fact, sent his president, Donald J. Carly, to reach the tentative agree-

ment last fall with the pilots' leadership.

But the pilots clearly have a very personal beef with Mr. Crandall, particularly over his compensation. In 1988, to get him to turn down a job offer from a competing airline, AMR's board granted Mr. Crandall an award of stock, to be distributed in eight annual installments. The stock was valued at \$12 million at the time. The value of AMR's shares has increased by more than 150 percent since then.

Since that award was made, Mr. Crandall's regular annual compensation has typically been less than \$1 million. Last year, when American's revenues were about \$16 billion, he received \$662,500 in salary, with no bonus.

Still, many pilots think he is overpaid. A cartoon in the May 1996 issue of their union's magazine, Flight Line, shows Mr. Crandall running an AMR staff meeting. He is pointing to a sign on the wall next to him. Titled "AMR Transition Plan," the sign has an arrow pointing from a dollar sign to a likeness of his face. "Get it from the pilots," the cartoon shows Mr. Crandall saying.

The cartoon is part of a package of articles on AMR executive compensation that includes a time line showing how Mr. Crandall's pay, with the big stock award factored in, was increasing as he was winning concessions from pilots. The cover of the magazine reads: "The Amazing AMR Corp. Magic Show! Featuring Increased Executive Salaries, Record Profits, Large Executive Bonuses, Plus... the Newest Trick... Watch in Awe as Pilot Pay Cuts Appear Before Your Very Eyes!!!"

"He's getting increases in compensation because of the money he's saving the company," said Glenn Schaffer, a pilot who helped to coordinate a lobbying effort among his colleagues to vote against the tentative labor agreement. "Mr. Crandall is a brilliant man, but at a certain point in time it becomes unethical and immoral for corporations to use employees to push downward on wages and working conditions to increase their own compensation," he said.

In last month's interview, Mr. Crandall said the pilots were way off base. "The idea that I'm going to get individually rich if the company does well just isn't right," he said. "That isn't the way compensation plans are structured. It hasn't happened and it isn't going to happen."

Mr. Crandall received some backing recently when Graef Crystal, the widely quoted expert on executive compensation, wrote an article for the November issue of D, a magazine about Dallas, called "The Most Overpaid (and Underpaid) Chief Executives in Dallas." The section titled, "Why Robert Crandall Doesn't Make Enough Money" has its own cartoonish illustration, showing Mr. Crandall holding out a cup, as a beggar would, by the side of a road.

By Mr. Crystal's calculations, Mr. Crandall's total compensation package, including the stock award, was 69 percent less over the last three years than that of chief executives running companies of similar size with similar profitability.

"By my way of thinking, this is exemplary behavior," Mr. Crystal said in an interview. "He would certainly be a finalist in the Mother Teresa contest of C.E.O.'s in America."



Robert Crandall

Not that the American Airlines chairman is going soft. Mr. Crandall, a man of exaggerated features, a billboard smile and retro-slick hair, still maintains his Mick Jagger-thin body. He is still driven, even defiantly so — he runs several miles a day on his treadmill (but refuses to give up his smoking habit). And he still practices the power breakfast, as he demonstrated during last month's interview, sending back his lone English muffin because it arrived buttered. When a new one arrived dry, as he had ordered it, he dug forcefully into a small jar of honey as if he were shucking a stubborn oyster.

"What keeps me motivated more than anything else is pride," he said. "Every day I get up with some idea of what we can do to make the company better." He wants American's earnings to be consistently better than those of its competitors, and he wants the airline to be considered the best in the world, something that he acknowledges he is not yet convinced of himself.

But he has, by all accounts, also throttled back the fire-breathing intensity? Those who know him say that his legendary bark is still there — and it seems to grow loudest when talking about the pilots — but some of the angry bite is gone.

In a speech in New York last month, Mr. Crandall — the man who has likened the airline industry to legalized warfare — stressed the need for all carriers to work together more effectively. "We must recognize that doing our best sometimes requires cooperation as well as competition," he said.

He is even changing his confrontational approach to Washington. Now, he is trying to build relationships, he said, rather than simply showing up to deliver a forceful message.

Mr. Crandall's wife, Jan, said in an interview that her husband also seemed less rushed these days. "Most nights, he does not want the dinner hour to end," she said. "He wants to sit and talk."

And when he talks, Mr. Crandall often has something interesting to say. He predicted, for example, that the rush by airlines to pair off in alliances will lead to even bigger groupings, providing new opportunities to save money. If, for example, the partner airlines collectively planned their new plane purchases so the cockpits were the same for each type of aircraft, the pilots of each airline could fly one another's planes. That way, the airlines could probably get more use each day out of their flying factories, which would help lower costs.

This idea of a simplified fleet was part of the logic behind the big Boeing order by American: one make of aircraft lowers training costs for pilots and mechanics, and also cuts inventory costs for spare parts.

Yes, Mr. Crandall conceded, such sharing of planes could create a logistical and operational nightmare. It also, of course, would be a problem for American's pilots. And how would he sort out the issue of liability in a crash caused by a pilot from one of the other partner airlines?

"Well, life is going to get more complicated," he said. "But life is already pretty complicated."

It can also be pretty frustrating, as he was reminded last week. But perhaps sooner than many people think, Mr. Crandall may put that frustration behind him.

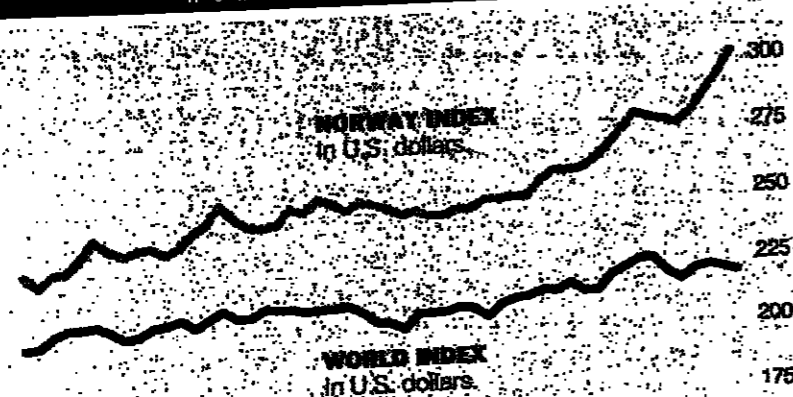
"I have no immediate plan to retire, but I probably won't stay until I'm 65," he said. "There will be a graceful time to leave."

When he does, he will have plenty to do, he said. He wants to improve his sailing skills as well as his singing and piano playing. There is also more gardening to do with his wife. And books to read — particularly histories and biographies.

"Every day of my life after I stop working, I'm going to spend two or three hours reading," he said. "I can't imagine ever running out of things that I haven't gotten to yet."

After American, he said, he is unlikely to work in the airline business again. "My identification with American is so intense, to do anything in this industry would require being competitive with American," he said. "I would never want to do that."

WORLD STOCK MARKETS



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT Indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

Country	PERFORMANCE IN U.S. DOLLARS				IN LOCAL CURR.			
	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	Index	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	YTD % Chg.
Australia	217.24	-0.6	23	-2.1	23	4.12	185.14	-0.4
Austria	185.39	-1.4	27	-2.4	25	1.87	152.56	0.4
Belgium	227.97	1.2	15	0.1	18	3.51	183.59	2.9
Brazil	200.85	6.5	3	5.9	4	1.59	384.79	6.1
Britain	274.54	-1.4	26	-3.0	27	3.92	242.22	-1.3
Canada	195.23	3.2	7	2.8	8	1.93	190.55	1.1
Denmark	353.91	1.2	16	0.6	15	1.51	290.24	2.8
Finland	252.66	3.6	6	2.9	7	1.99	250.30	5.3
France	210.28	0.5	21	-1.8	21	2.77	176.24	1.7
Germany	188.05	0.8	19	-1.0	20	1.56	154.87	-2.1
Hong Kong	496.06	-0.4	22	-2.2	24	3.16	492.81	5.2
Indonesia	239.98	3.6	5	5.2	5	1.48	347.88	2.2
Ireland	328.04	0.7	20	-0.2	19	3.28	279.74	8.7
Italy	89.50	8.1	2	7.2	2	2.04	103.06	2.2
Japan	116.93	-9.3	28	-9.4	28	0.90	85.68	-9.5
Malaysia	618.09	2.7	8	2.5	12	1.05	590.71	0.7
Mexico	1,305.70	5.5	4	7.0	3	0.98	11,219.39	6.9
Netherlands	327.17	-1.0	24	-2.7	26	2.78	265.45	0.0
New Zealand	94.27	1.9	12	2.7	9	3.93	71.01	3.0
Norway	305.67	2.7	9	3.6	6	1.90	265.15	3.5
Philippines	208.97	1.9	13	2.6	10	0.61	274.28	2.8
Singapore	426.10	1.1	18	1.5	13	1.00	275.88	1.9
South Africa	319.87	-2.1	11	0.5	16	2.41	327.20	0.5
Spain	222.63	2.2	10	1.3	14	2.78	222.92	2.9
Sweden	422.88	1.2	17	0.2	17	2.05	432.33	1.4
Switzerland	233.70	-1.2	25	-2.0	22	1.46	199.30	0.4
Thailand	102.75	12.6	1	7.3	1	3.36	102.16	7.2
United States	309.30	1.6	14	2.5	11	1.91	309.30	2.5

COMPOSITE INDICES	IN U.S. DOLLARS				IN LOCAL CURR.			
	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	Index	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	YTD % Chg.
Europe	236.23	0.1		-1.4	2.82	205.90		0.7
Pacific Basin	138.04	-6.8		-7.2	1.39	101.65		-7.2
Europe/Pacific	178.92	-3.1		-4.1	2.18	141.01		-3.0
World	222.34	-0.7		-0.8	2.04	193.56		-0.3

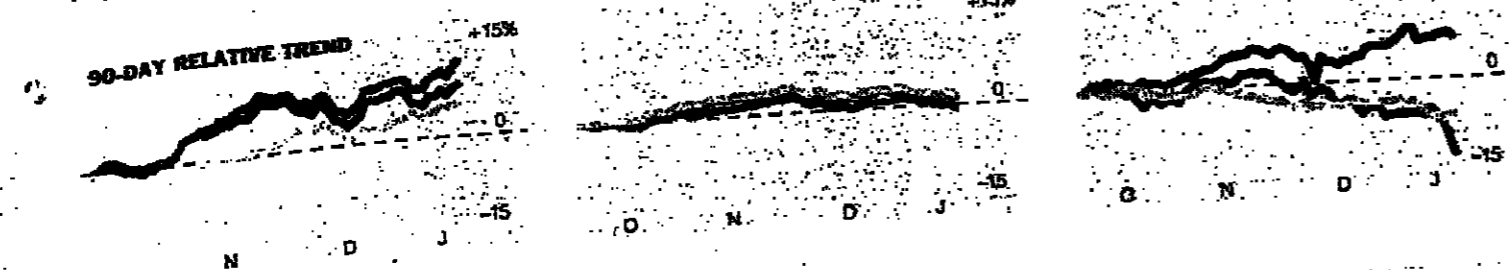
Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1996 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

Exchange rate	Friday	Last Friday		Year Ago
		Friday	% Chg.	
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	116.08	116.43	-0.31	105.25
German mark to the U.S. dollar	1.5855	1.5844	+1.34	1.4440
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.3482	1.3708	-1.64	1.3632
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6907	1.6901	-0.55	1.5465

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

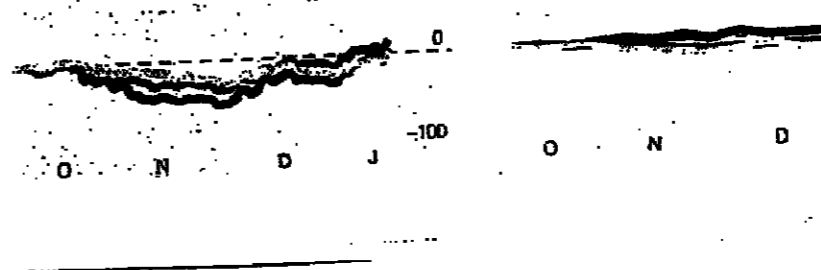
Jan. 6-10: The Dow Finishes Above 6,700, but Bonds and Asian Markets Drop

PRICES	DOMESTIC EQUITIES	DOMESTIC BONDS	AROUND THE WORLD
Broad market S & P 500 index	Up 1.53% 759.50	Treasuries Down 0.51% 192.98	European stocks Up 0.16% F.T.-Actuaries Europe 236.23
Blue chips Dow 30 industrials	Up 2.44% 6,703.79	Municipals Down 1.17% 115.47	Asian stocks Down 6.82% F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin 138.04
Small capitalization Russell 2000 index	Up 1.17% 366.09	Bond Buyer index Down 0.50% 839.49	Gold Down 0.50% New York cash price \$360.20



YIELDS

BONDS	OTHER INVESTMENTS
Long bonds 6.84%	Money market funds 4.89%
30-year Treasuries Up 11 basis pts.	Taxable average Down 1 basis pt.
Notes 6.02%	Bank C.D.'s 5.03%
2-year Treasuries Up 8 basis pts.	1-year small savers Unchanged
Municipals 5.86%	Stocks 1.96%
Bond Buyer index Up 9 basis pts.	S. & P. 500 dividend yield Down 5 b.p.



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The Republicans' Moment of Truth

In the annals of obstructive behavior, it would be hard to match the tactics of Newt Gingrich's Republican friends. First, they re-elected Mr. Gingrich as House Speaker before the ethics committee had completed its inquiry into his activities. Then they said the vote on his punishment would be held before the committee issued its final report. Then they tried to shorten the public hearings and deny the committee's special counsel the money needed to finish his work. The clear message from all these actions is that the Republicans want to squelch any serious inquiry into Mr. Gingrich's suitability for his job.

But the questions of Mr. Gingrich's fitness for high office are now more urgent than ever. As reported Friday by The Times's Adam Clymer, there is now a tape recording of a conversation between Mr. Gingrich and his senior Republican colleagues in the House in which they discuss ways to orchestrate an attack on the ethics committee's charges — despite an agreement Mr. Gingrich's lawyers made with the committee to do no such thing. In a sense, the discussion parallels what Mr. Gingrich was accused of doing in the original ethics charge — disdaining the rules when he set up a college course, financed by tax-exempt foundations, as part of the Republican electoral strategy in 1994.

The ethics committee must realize that the integrity of Congress itself is on the line. Given the public's growing revulsion over arrogance and political corruption, it is scarcely believable that the 105th session of Congress is opening on such a blatantly cynical note.

Only a few days remain for Representative Nancy Johnson of Connecticut to rescue her reputation and that of her committee from the tatters to which it has been reduced. The committee should open for business tomorrow, as originally planned.

The special counsel, James Cole, should be allowed to present his conclusions about what Mr. Gingrich did, followed by hearings. Then the committee should decide Mr. Gingrich's punishment and issue a report. Then some time should elapse. Then the House should vote.

The process need not be drawn out. Neither should it be rushed. A vote by the House on Feb. 4, when it returns to Washington for the State of the Union Message, makes vastly more sense than holding the vote on Jan. 21, as the Republican leadership now insists. It makes no sense to vote until after Mr. Cole completes his report, and he has made it clear that he needs more time.

Mr. Cole, a former Justice Department prosecutor, needs to be listened to. Right now, Mr. Gingrich has in effect pleaded guilty to two misdeeds he characterizes as technical — filing false information to the ethics committee about the college course he was teaching and failing to consult lawyers about whether he was violating tax laws in tapping funds from tax-exempt foundations for the course. But to decide the punishment, Congress needs to know what the evidence shows about Mr. Gingrich's intent. It appears, for example, that the course was set up only after it was clear that the Speaker's own political-action committee had run out of funds, and there was a need to get other funds to help elect Republicans.

The question before the House is whether there was a systematic effort by the Speaker to defraud the Treasury by raising tax-exempt funds for a course clearly aimed at buttressing the Republican cause and then misrepresenting what he was doing to the public and the ethics committee. Only a thorough hearing of the evidence can answer that question to the satisfaction of the House members who must decide Mr. Gingrich's fate.

A Chance to Ban Chemical Weapons

With the world's most ambitious effort to ban chemical weapons rapidly taking shape, the United States stands awkwardly on the sidelines, in the embarrassing company of pariah nations like Iraq and Libya. This is because Senate Republicans, at the behest of Presidential candidate Bob Dole, scuttled an expected ratification vote on the Chemical Weapons Convention last fall. Rather than accept the crippling amendments these senators demanded, the Clinton Administration withdrew the treaty from Senate consideration.

As a new Senate session begins, Trent Lott, the majority leader, can make amends and demonstrate statesmanship by bringing the agreement up for an early vote and gathering enough Republican support to assure the needed two-thirds majority.

The Chemical Weapons Convention bans the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons. It is backed by a rigorous international inspection system and restrictions on trade in commercially used chemicals that can be turned into weapons ingredients. It represents a substantial advance over the Geneva Convention of 1925, which only prohibits countries from initiating the use of chemical weapons in combat. Republicans should not have much trouble warming to this agreement. Most of its provisions were shaped by negotiators from the Republican Administrations of Ronald Reagan and George Bush. The United States signed the convention in the waning days of Mr. Bush's Presidency.

More than 160 countries have signed the agreement and 67 have ratified it. The convention's administrative staff and corps of inspectors formally begin operations in April. But until the United States ratifies, American citizens will be ineligible

to serve on these bodies — forfeiting the chance to influence budgetary decisions and inspection practices that American negotiators worked hard to secure. The \$60 billion annual export business of America's chemical industry also faces risks. In a few years tough trade restrictions come into effect against countries that have not ratified the convention. The chemical industry estimates that could cost the United States \$600 million in lost exports every year ratification is delayed.

In opposing the treaty last fall, Mr. Dole and others cited the potential for undetected violations, the allegedly burdensome requirements on American chemical companies and the number of other countries that had either not yet signed or not ratified the convention.

The Pentagon acknowledges that some chemicals could elude the inspection system but says no militarily significant quantities could get through. Violations would, in any event, be more readily detected with the treaty than without it. The United States chemical industry helped negotiate the inspection and paperwork rules for commercial companies and strongly supports treaty ratification.

Since last fall, China has completed all but the last diplomatic formalities of ratification and Russia's parliament has taken important initial steps. Most of the other major military powers, like Britain, France, Germany and India, have ratified.

A majority of senators have declared their support for the treaty, including Republicans like Richard Lugar of Indiana, Ted Stevens of Alaska and John Warner of Virginia. Bringing support to the two-thirds threshold is up to Mr. Lott. It seems an ideal opportunity for him to rise above partisanship and act in the interest of all Americans.

A Threat to the Adirondacks

If anyone needed a reason why it was important for New Yorkers to pass the environmental bond act last November, Marylou Whitney has just provided one. Mrs. Whitney, the heir to one of America's great fortunes, is also the owner of one of America's largest unspoiled tracts of private wilderness, 51,000 acres of forests, streams and lakes in New York's Adirondack Park. She now proposes to subdivide 15,000 acres of that land into 40 lots averaging about 300 acres. Mrs. Whitney promises to take precautions to protect the environment, but common sense suggests that chopping 15,000 acres of contiguous wilderness into what her press release calls "40 exclusive shoreline estates" would be ecologically harmful.

Mrs. Whitney has submitted her scheme to the Adirondack Park Agency, which in effect operates as the zoning commission for the park's six million acres. That agency is now dominated by people who favor development over conservation and is therefore likely to approve the plan. If it does, and if market conditions are right, the developers will come running with bids — unless Gov. George Pataki moves first.

Encouragingly, Mr. Pataki said Wednesday that the state would try to buy the land. We hope he holds to that promise, because adding Mrs. Whitney's land to the state's forest preserve would be a far better outcome than selling it to developers. Of course, the price has to be right. Since 1990, environmental and recreation groups have tried to persuade Albany to buy all 51,000 acres, and there have been suggestions that Mrs. Whitney's latest plan is a

ploy to drive up the price the state will ultimately have to pay for her entire holdings. She denies this, but the figures being bandied about — as much as \$4,000 an acre — would imply a total outlay of \$60 million for the 15,000 acres alone.

That is more than half the \$100 million in the state's Environmental Protection Fund, which must cover a wide range of needs. It would eat up much of the \$150 million reserved for land acquisition under the environmental bond act — money that is supposed to be distributed statewide, not just to Mrs. Whitney's wallet. But if Mr. Pataki bargains hard and thinks creatively, he can work things out.

For bargaining, he can call upon a shrewd negotiator, his counsel Michael Finnegan, who played a major role in crafting a deal between New York City and upstate communities to clean up the city's water supply. As for creativity, Mr. Pataki should try to tap as many funding sources as possible so as not to put too much strain on any one revenue stream. The bond act, for example, provides money not only for land acquisition but also for watershed protection, and the Whitney property includes some of the Adirondacks' most valuable lakes. He might seek money from the Interior Department's Land and Water Conservation Fund, which was established for precisely this purpose.

Although Mr. Pataki is unlikely to move ahead on any environmental project without consulting the State Legislature, the bond act gives the Governor and his executive agencies the upper hand in drawing up spending priorities. The Whitney estate should be at or near the top of that list.

'Intent' Has No Part in Assisted Suicide Debate

To the Editor:

In their attack on physician-assisted suicide, George J. Annas and Michael A. Grodin (Op-Ed, Jan. 8) distinguish between a physician prescribing sedatives intending to cause death and one prescribing sedatives intending to relieve pain, even when the pain-relieving dose is likely to cause death. The former is a villain; the latter a saint. "Intent matters," the authors say. Perhaps so, but the "intent" to which they refer is mental and subjective. It has never had status in any legal system, and it should not, because its existence is not verifiable. Dr. A prescribes a lethal dose, intending to cause death but foreseeing that pain will end. Dr. B prescribes a lethal

dose, intending that pain cease but foreseeing that death will occur. Short of telepathy, how can a judge distinguish the intent of A from that of B? The behavior is the same, and the consequences the same.

In the 13th century, Thomas Aquinas distinguished the intent of A from the intent of B, but he had recourse to a God who could tell them apart. American judges, lacking a cosmic connection, must base their judgment on observable behavior and reasonably foreseeable consequences. They must view A and B as both villains, or both saints.

DOUGLAS P. LACKEY
New York, Jan. 8, 1997
The author is a professor of philosophy at Baruch College, CUNY.

The Doctor's Role

To the Editor:

George J. Annas and Michael A. Grodin (Op-Ed, Jan. 8) do not fully address the legal and factual arguments for assisted suicide.

The factual argument has its roots in the brute fact that there are some terminally ill patients who wish to die a dignified death. The legal argument has its roots in the notion that the Constitution correctly endorses the state's right to restrict the practice of medicine to physicians. If only physicians can prescribe medicine, then only physicians can give practical meaning to our right to die.

The state's constitutionally protected public health policies serve the public well. It is just that as a result of public policy, those who desperately want a dignified death on their own terms cannot have one without the help of a physician.

GEORGE STACK
Great Neck, L.I., Jan. 9, 1997

'Sentence First — Verdict Afterward?'

To the Editor:

Re your Jan. 9 editorial on the Supreme Court's decision that in sentencing a convicted defendant, Federal judges may take into account previous charges, even though the defendant was acquitted of them.

The Court focused on what it said is an important distinction between differing burdens of proof — proof beyond a reasonable doubt in the guilt phase and proof by a preponderance of the evidence in sentencing. But no careful parsing of when and where the different burdens of proof apply can still the uneasy feeling that there is something amiss in a legal system in which juries or judges, as if in Alice's Wonderland, could discover that up is down and down is up, that the same person is both innocent and guilty of committing the very same act.

There is more at stake in the Court's decision than mere lawyerly quibbles about burdens of proof. As you say, the decision undercuts the jury system. It also separates legal procedures from common-sense moral judgment and sends an unsettling message about the roles of juries at a time when our increasingly pluralistic society needs some mechanism for putting to rest deeply disputed questions of fact. Social peace depends in no small measure on the extent to which all of us can have confidence that a jury's verdict, especially in criminal cases involving hotly contested social issues, does indeed speak the truth. If a verdict is incomprehensible except for what it says about the pros-



Spot Cunningham

ecution's ability to meet its burden of proof, then why should any conflict cease? Why should anyone be satisfied with, or abide by, that verdict?

Only if the Supreme Court projects confidence that what is found by a jury is more than a probabilistic judgment based on the artificial conventions of legal proof can we begin to rebuild the essential confidence in trial by jury that has been so shaken by the cases of Rodney King, O. J. Simpson and countless others. Unfortunately, the Court's decision in this case, though it will be less noted and less celebrated than those others, is yet another serious blow to that confidence.

AUSTIN SARAT
Amherst, Mass., Jan. 9, 1997
The writer is a professor of political science at Amherst College.

Supreme Court, Not Pornographer, Is the Hero of 'Larry Flynt'

To the Editor:

I am puzzled and disappointed by Gloria Steinem's misrepresentations (Op-Ed, Jan. 7) of the film "The People vs. Larry Flynt," which I directed. To support her attack, she blurs or erases the clear distinction between the goals, philosophy and themes of my movie and those of Hustler magazine.

Despite her assertions, my film does not glorify Larry Flynt, even if we have not presented him as the incarnation of pure evil envisioned and demanded by Ms. Steinem.

Artists have always been drawn to the compelling mystery of ambiguity and of gray areas. The certainties of black and white are best left to the clergy. Was it courage, rage or self-interest that propelled Larry Flynt through the many battles that culminated in the Supreme Court? Gleeful disturber-of-the-peace or tenacious fighter for freedom of expression?

Was Oskar Schindler, the German industrialist who protected Jews from the Nazis, a rogue or a hero? Did he save lives for humane reasons or use slave labor for very profitable results?

Ms. Steinem invokes the Nazi terror to bolster her assault on me and the film. Despite my own distaste for pornography, one must acknowledge the vast gulf between vulgarity and a

feeling of respect, admiration or even gratitude for the individuals who have caused a reaffirmation of the Bill of Rights.

As a signatory and contributor to the full-page advertisement that appeared in The New York Times some years ago supporting Mr. Flynt's rights, I was treated to a token of his gratitude: a videotape of news reports chronicling his court victories — interspersed with graphic scenes of various sexual acts. Mr. Flynt had seemingly concluded that we had endorsed his taste as well as his rights. He was mistaken.

To my mind, one fact has been underreported: Neither Mr. Forman nor his producers felt comfortable in presenting any of the images that were and are the heart and soul of Hustler magazine. The Supreme Court liberated Larry Flynt. Why not "Larry Flynt"? PETER STONE
New York, Jan. 7, 1997
The writer is a screenwriter.

The Best and the Worst

To the Editor:

Gloria Steinem gets its right ("Hollywood Cleans Up Hustler," Op-Ed, Jan. 7). None of us involved in motion pictures can deny Milos Forman's talent; no one who has seen "The People vs. Larry Flynt" can disparage his directorial skills.

Further, few can argue with the inherent political statement: It often takes the worst of us to provoke the arguments that protect the rest of us, even the best of us. But that sentence does not automatically require any

Government for Sale: Contributors Welcome

To the Editor:

The Jan. 5 Week in Review article "Asian Money, American Fears" is a perfect example of how the American left continues to cast issue after issue in racial terms.

The issue of foreign contributors donating money to Democratic Party campaign coffers is not one of American prejudice. The real issue is that the Democratic Party left the impression with the American public that these illegal donations may have influenced American foreign policy. The larger issue is that Americans are sick and tired of having the Government up for sale, particularly the Presidency.

JAMES S. BROWN
Chicago, Jan. 7, 1997

Your newspaper has reported at least two incidents when such pressure was brought to bear.

A Nov. 20, 1991, front-page article reported that after Matsushita acquired Universal Pictures as part of the MCA deal, the studio changed the plot of the film "Mr. Baseball" to make the American hero accept the Japanese approach to the all-American sport.

A Feb. 5, 1992, article reported that the Sony-owned Tristar Pictures dropped "Hell Camp" after 15 months of preparation time and expense because the Sumo Association of Japan found its portrayals of sumo wrestlers somehow "unflattering."

ALAN R. WEEKS
New York, Jan. 5, 1997

Japanese Editing

To the Editor:

The Jan. 5 Week in Review article "Asian Money, American Fears" implies the implausibility of Japanese-owned American movie studios' killing scripts that are unflattering to the Japanese people or those things they hold in high esteem.

The Times welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. Those selected may be shortened for space reasons. Fax letters to (212) 556-3622 or send by electronic mail to letters@nytimes.com, or by regular mail to Letters to the Editor, The New York Times, 229 West 43d Street, New York, N.Y. 10036-3959.

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Women's Place

To the Editor:

Gloria Steinem's monocular vision notwithstanding, "pornography" is no more a single-faceted entity than the mainstream culture it derives from — or feminism itself. Her Jan. 7 Op-Ed article, although it discusses Milos Forman's film "The People vs. Larry Flynt," is actually a rehash of 15 years of anti-pornography arguments. But there are committed, longtime feminists, like me, who believe that, like the culture at large, pornography consists of many degrading images of women and a few liberating images.

Some of us also believe that pornography, situated at the margins of that culture, reflects but does not cause the oppression of women, and that to throw stones at it is to waste our time attacking a reflection while leaving that which it reflects standing.

In such a view, if all pornography disappeared tomorrow, sexism would emerge unscathed; whereas, if we succeeded in rooting out sexism, pornography as we know it would fade away. So would such equally degrading Madison Avenue images as the commercials that have taught more women their "place" than all the copies of Hustler magazine ever printed.

JUDITH MARONEY PASTERNAK
New York, Jan. 8, 1997

Left Turn on Gingrich

To the Editor:

Your Jan. 8 editorial on the reelection of Newt Gingrich as Speaker is shocking. One always appreciated that your views were slanted left. This was considered good because a diversity of opinion is what democracy is about. However, hysteria over an offense equivalent to jay walking — Mr. Gingrich's admission to this offense was a tactic to take the ammunition from those exercising a vendetta — is beyond reason. It appears that you have made a sharp left turn.

SELDON SILVERSTON
New York, Jan. 8, 1997

Handwritten signature: J.P. [unclear]

FILM

In the Director's Chair, It Was the Year of the Actor

Suddenly every actor wants to be Kenneth Branagh.

By BETSY SHARKEY

THE BIGGEST movie trend of 1996? It wasn't movies about aliens or movies with music. It was movies directed by actors. And two of those films, Al Pacino's documentary "Looking for Richard" and Stanley Tucci's "Big Night," have not only landed on critics' 10-best lists but are possible candidates for Oscar nominations.

In what is surely a first, dozens of actors switched hats last year. Consider some whose novice efforts appeared in 1996: Tom Hanks with "That Thing You Do!"; Steve Buscemi with "Trees Lounge"; Anjelica Huston with "Bastard Out of Carolina"; Kevin Bacon with "Losing Chase"; Emilio Estevez with "The War at Home"; and Matthew Broderick with "Infinity."

This year audiences will see Jason Alexander's "For Better or Worse," Kevin Spacey's "Albino Alligator" (opening on Friday), Timothy Hutton's "Digging to China," Vondie Curtis-Hall's "Gridlock'd," Alan Rickman's "Winter Guest," David Schwimmer's "Dogwater" and Andy Garcia's "Lost City." Johnny Depp is directing "The Brave." Madonna has said she will direct a movie based on the novel "Going Down."

But if last year's crop of films by actors was any indication, audiences may feel that this year's group offers more threat than promise. Few of these fledgling directors' movies lived up to the standard of "Big Night," a low-budget look at brothers at an Italian restaurant in the 50's. The movie, co-directed with Campbell Scott, has made \$11 million at the box office.

Many more efforts, like "Losing Chase," "Trees Lounge" and "That Thing You Do!" were well received critically but not financial hits. ("That Thing You Do!" for instance, cost nearly \$30 million and has taken in only \$26 million, of which the studio gets half.) "Sling Blade," a film written and directed by Billy Bob Thornton, who also stars in it, landed on some 10-best lists but has made less than \$150,000 in early release at the box office. (The film cost slightly more than \$1 million.) "Unhook the Stars" was heralded more as the return of Gena Rowlands than as a brilliant debut for her actor son, Nick Cassavetes, who directed. And "Infinity," a period film about the physicist Richard Feynman, was perceived as a misfire.

"The problem is that actors have a tendency to think in terms of scenes instead of a whole story," says Peter Bart, the editor of Variety. "What you can end up with too easily is a scene in search of a story."

Bart says that he is most interested in movies that have more than just great performances. "The War at Home," which Emilio Estevez directed, "he says, 'is the personification of what's wrong with actors directing. It's a terrible picture, intellectually dwarfed. I'd much rather watch something that shows real imagination, not just a movie that gives actors time on screen to do their shrick.'"

Julie Salamon, the author of "The Devil's Candy," which detailed the disastrous making of the film "The Bonfire of the Vanities," says: "There's nothing inherently wrong with actors directing, and there are some wonderful ones. Tim Robbins made an excellent movie in 'Dead Man Walking' and Laurence Olivier was a wonderful director." Olivier received an Oscar nomination for his direction of the 1948 screen adaptation of "Hamlet," in which he also starred. The film won the Oscar for best picture.

"Producers are always taking a chance on a first-time director," says Ms. Salamon, whose most recent book, "The Christmas Tree," was turned into a made-for-television movie directed by Sally Field. "With an actor," Ms. Salamon says, "at least they know where to point the camera. They've experienced a movie being made, versus a writer or someone who's only directed music videos or commercials."

Directors have always numbered actors among their ranks. In fact, some of the most successful directors started out as actors. Penny Marshall ("The Preacher's Wife"), Ron Howard ("Ransom") and Rob Reiner ("Ghosts of Mississippi") have become better known behind the camera than in front of it. These three were character or comic actors, never had big film careers and made the transition to directing seamlessly. Mr. Tucci, if he chose to direct more and act less, might be in this category.

The relative star power of actors tends to determine where they initially find themselves on the directing food chain. Even in their first directing efforts, big stars like Robert



Juliet Moret and Kevin Conway, in costume, with Al Pacino in his "Looking for Richard."



Kevin Bacon directing his wife, Kyra Sedgwick, in "Losing Chase"—"Running the show."

ert Redford, Warren Beatty, Jodie Foster, Mel Gibson, Kevin Cosner, Barbra Streisand and Clint Eastwood were generally given substantial budgets to work with. Mr. Hanks, with his good-size budget for "That Thing You Do!" is in their ranks. "Believe me," he says, "the suits at the studio certainly want to please me, and I was certainly aware of that very powerful hole card that I could play." But he adds that star power is not unlimited. "The idea that I would be able to hold a gun to the studio's head and say, 'I want to make this movie about entomologists who do heroin and they would say, 'Sure, go do it.' It doesn't work that way." He says he has not decided whether he will direct another film.

Mr. Redford is scheduled to direct "The Horse Whisperer," and Mr. Eastwood is doing "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil." Mr. Beatty, who made the unfortunate "Love Affair" in 1994, is directing "Bulworth." Ms. Foster, after a poorly received "Home for the Holidays" in 1995, plans to direct again after she finishes shooting "Contact."

"The most common motivation behind these deals is that you wanted to keep up a relationship," says Mr. Bart. "Why let Mel Gibson direct 'The Man Without a Face'? You want to maintain a relationship with a superstar."

That investment has tended to pay off for the studios. Mr. Costner's first film, "Dances With Wolves" brought him an Oscar for best director and made \$184 million at the domestic box office. Mr. Gibson went on to win the Oscar for directing "Braveheart," his second film. "Dances With Wolves" and "Braveheart" were also, like Olivier's "Hamlet," named best picture of the year.

Except for Mr. Hanks, however, most of last year's crop of actor-directors were decidedly less than superstars. Many of them were given production deals by smaller studios. Why would a studio hand a movie to David Schwimmer? Because he has accumulated fans from the television show "Friends" and has name recognition with an ideal audience, age 15 to 30. Because he can presumably get other recognizable names to be in his low-budget movie, (Lara Flynn Boyle, Jon Stewart and Teri Hatcher will appear in "Dogwater.") And because his film will probably make money.

"In the made-for-cable and independent film arena, where most of these films exist, the producers are looking at the star value," Mr. Bart says. "They want to be associated with a star, and that in turn makes it easier to get funding together."

The trend is also a result of the current business dynamics of the movie industry. Actors are no longer contract players, tied up with a studio that decides what their next films will be. Few actors wait for good scripts to come to them. "Actors generate their own projects," says Harvey Weinstein, the co-chairman of Miramax. "They own material." Mr. Schwimmer brought his script to Miramax. Last year, Miramax had a success with another actor-directed film, "Flirting With Disaster," by Ben Stiller.

For smaller independent production companies, which have neither the clout nor the money to attract A-list directors, hiring a known actor is a way of hedging their bets. "It's always difficult to get the money," says Kiefer Sutherland. His 1993 directing debut, "Last Light," was paid for by the Showtime cable channel. "I said, 'You're giving me a million dollars. I'm going to deliver a whole movie for that and, with whatever status I have as an actor, you can sell that on home video.'"

Though box office success for this new wave of actor-directors has been hard to come by, the desire to direct is deep-seated among actors and not likely to disappear. "Being an actor on a movie means complaining about the way everything's going, and the vast majority of actors all do that," Mr. Hanks says.

But Ms. Salamon, who also teaches a film course at New York University, believes there is more behind the directing urge than just feeling stifled as actors. "I see students who have much more of a sense of the industry part of film making," she says. "They are more pragmatic, as opposed to being driven by a grand passion. And this current generation of actor-directors is part of an entrepreneurial generation, the same generation that produced a Bill Gates."

Then there is the understanding that some actors' careers are slowing down. That is what led the actress Christine Lahti to direct. Her first film, a short subject titled "Lieberman in Love," won her a best-director Oscar last year in the best-actor short-film category.

"For women past the age of 35, the parts just aren't there," she says. "I turned to directing by default." (The lag in her career reversed itself when she began appearing as a regular on the CBS series "Chicago Hope" last year.)

Had his career as an actor evolved differently, Mr. Tucci says, he also wonders if he would have felt as compelled to direct. "Had I gotten all the roles I wanted to get," he says, "maybe I wouldn't have given it a second thought."

The business itself, with its voracious appetite for new films and its aging corps of top directors, is also helping the process along. In 1996, the number of films that made it to general theatrical release increased by 16 percent, according to industry statistics. Yet hiring actors to direct remains a dicey proposition for studio executives. "A lot of studio executives bristle," says Mr. Weinstein. "They think if they give an actor a head of steam, he'll have too much control."

Typically financed by foreign investors and smaller production companies or, like Mr. Pacino's "Looking for Richard," paid for entirely by the actor, most of these movies have performed like the small, independent films they are. That is to say, modestly.

Directing is not a money train for actors either. Directing a movie, says Tommy Lee Jones, always cost him money.

"I can make more at my day job," he says dryly. Mr. Jones directed "The Good Old Boys" for TNT in 1995 but recently decided to pass on the feature film "Third Down and Forever" because he wanted greater creative control.

Kevin Bacon, besides directing "Losing Chase" (which was produced by his wife, Kyra Sedgwick, who also starred), now has a starring role in Mr. Hutton's "Digging to China." Mr. Bacon says: "If you act, you're always working for the man. After a while, you want to have a chance at running the show."

He says actors have already learned and absorbed a great deal from being in the business. "I've been making movies for 20 years," says Mr. Bacon, "and I hardly ever get a chance to be directed by someone who's had as much film experience as I have. I'm much more willing to take a shot with someone like Tim Hutton, who's been acting as long as I have, versus a writer."

Dissatisfaction is easy for actors to come by. "We all experience a certain amount of disappointment," says Mr. Estevez, whose "War at Home" failed at the box office. "I've felt the last few years as an actor that I was artistically bankrupt."

The nature of acting itself often breeds the desire to do something more challenging. Actors spend the bulk of their time following the director's instruction, saying the writer's words, interpreting the character's feelings.

"The thing about directing, from the moment you arrive you are involved, every minute of the day," says Mr. Hutton. "It's a complete use of your time, your mind, your judgment, your instincts." The process of both acting and directing, though, can be brutal. Robert Redford has never directed himself in a movie, and there is the possibility that he'll withdraw as the

director of "The Horse Whisperer," which he is also scheduled to star in.

Mr. Hanks says: "As an actor you're able to be moody and mysterious, to have your own way of working that everyone sort of respects because you're the actor and you don't have to explain anything to anybody. As a director, however, you have to be constantly telling people what you want. You have to be able to imagine it first of all, then you have to be able to verbalize it secondly. That's the antithesis of being mysterious and moody."

Mel Gibson, who has acted in and directed two films, says simply: "You can't do both for long or you'll die young. It's very punishing."

Nevertheless last year's novice directors, almost without exception, cast themselves in their movies, à la Kenneth Branagh. Because wanting to direct, and finding the money to make a film, are two separate issues.

Rarely are the new actor-directed films financed by major studios. Mr. Hanks, a bankable star, was able to get just under \$30 million from 20th Century Fox to make his film. A budget of about \$5 million is more

typical. Down at the \$1 million to \$2 million level, any movie will most likely make money.

Still, getting the financing becomes something of a shell game. Mr. Estevez agreed to star in "D3: The Mighty Ducks" for no pay if Disney would put up a large portion of the money for "The War at Home." The studio agreed. "Disney came up with two-thirds of the \$4.5 million budget and got the North American rights," he says.

It is a given that you surround a first-time director with the best cinematographer, assistant director, lighting and casting people that a tiny budget can afford, according to Mr. Weinstein. "I've never seen an actor-director blow the acting," he says. "It's in the visual or editing, the technical side, where they might be a little weak."

Casting, on the other hand, often becomes a circle of friends. The films may be low budget, but A-list talent will often sign on as a favor.

"If you've had a life as an actor, that's where your friends are," says Mr. Jones, who turned to Sissy Spacek and Sam Shepard when he cast "The Good Old Boys." "I made that movie for \$5 million, and I certainly

could not have put that together and shot that movie if my friends hadn't said they would work on it."

Despite the pleasure of holding the reins, most actors don't find directing easy. Anthony Hopkins directed one film, "August," released last year, and told associates he didn't want to direct again. Jack Lemmon directed a well-received film in 1971, "Kotch," and hasn't directed since.

Ms. Salamon says, "The question really becomes, How many will hang in there for the long haul? An actor can jump on board a film and then be gone, but a director has to live with it for at least a year."

Mr. Hanks, however, reminds that it is a seductive world. "You look at the movie," he says, "and it is what you imagined and at the same time better than what you imagined."

One veteran actor-director agrees. "At some point you're standing on a stage presenting the movie to 500 people at a film festival," says Ms. Foster. "And you're the only one on the stage. It hits you — it was your vision all along, be that good, bad or indifferent. You are entirely responsible."

I WANTED TO BE A...

BY MEL ROSEN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

1 It Be Magic (Manilow song)

6 Country place for Yeltsin

11 16-Down, for one

16 Recipe amt.

20 Prefix with -pathy

21 Contemporary author Canin

22 Kind of cross

23 They get what's left

25 More aloof

26 Car in a Beach Boys song

27 Irregular

28 Longhorn rival

29 ... faith healer, but I

33 Cádiz Mrs.

34 "The heck with you!"

35 Large group

36 Cherish

37 Trig figure: Abbr.

38 Grenoble's river

40 It's good in Paris

42 Benchmarks: Abbr.

43 Exchange

44 Converterplane, e.g.

49 Shipping hazard

50 ... publisher of e. e. cummings's works, but I...

55 Country singer Tillis

58 Each

59 "Shrovetide

60 "Sneakers" artist

61 San —, Idaho

61 Crockett's last stand

62 Past its prime

64 "Mister —" (1957 Tony Curtis film)

65 Go through

66 Visit

67 Singer Janis

68 Cha, cha, cha, e.g.

69 Neologism

70 ... masseur, but I...

78 Works into a passion

79 Cowboy gear

80 Smithfield product

81 Combs

82 Collapses

83 Product of Sweden

85 Former chairman of CBS

90 Say "to c's/e," e.g.

91 San —, Calif.

92 Eastern title

93 Violinmaker Amati

94 Address book info: Abbr.

95 ... mime, but I...

99 Wasn't straight

100 Many paintings

101 Release, in a way

102 Runner Zatopek

106 Cover

107 Word on all U.S. coins

109 Misc. ending

110 Corelli composition

112 Office

113 Dinsmore the prig

115 Cousin of "ugh"

118 ... sumo wrestler, but I...

124 Free

125 Disinclined

126 Tropical palm

127 Triangular peninsula

128 Minneapolis suburb

129 Big name in the metals industry

130 Do

DOWN

1 Prepares to strike, maybe

2 March honor

3 Punc War city

4 National emblem of Wales

5 Quiz whiz Charles

6 Farmer's tool

7 Out

8 One of Pete Rose's records

8 Does gym-class exercises

9 Like Hannah's heart, in song

10 Connective tissue of prose

11 Warm-up act

12 Made without milk or meat

13 Thermosetting resin

14 Dancer Jeanmaire

15 On the safe side?

16 Massenet work

17 Sires

18 Official impression

19 Set an asking figure

20 Has the earmarks of

20 Figure

31 Diggers, in printing

32 Dancer Jeanmaire

38 Autostrada's place

39 Bribes

40 Word with date or trust

41 Silme

43 Moore starter

44 Intent

45 Polo grounds?

46 Field of honor fight

47 Suffix with dither

48 Badge of battle

49 Exhibits on a whaling ship

51 River of Avignon

52 Retina layers

53 As in Aztec

54 "Mack the Knife" singer

55 Tree also called a custard apple

56 Bygone computer

57 It may be advanced

62 Extended

64 Tops off

65 Galley notations

66 Popular PC shooting

67 Mid-month, in old Rome

68 Go downhill, in a way

69 Complain

70 Furnace button

71 Trace word

72 Sweater

73 Unit of data transmission

74 Casmerodius albus, commonly

75 Spied

76 Carpetlike

77 Slip

82 Like Hitler's "diaries"

83 Got wind of, old-style

84 Feels punk

85 Small songbirds

86 It stands for something

87 François Souchet's "Nude Lying on a

88 Fast pace

89 Have the — for

91 Year in St. Leo IX's papacy

92 "No returns"

93 Vatican emissary

96 To whom the Kaaba is dedicated

97 4-H participant

98 Exhibits more stamina

102 Architectural suffix

103 Diamond elevations

104 Ab — (from the beginning)

105 Merry a novela watcher

107 Old Jutland resident

108 "Cosby" co-star

109 Puts in

111 Fine-tune

112 Slot

113 Kind of wheel

114 Road race maneuvers

115 Beat it

116 Profit

117 "Die Lorelei" poet

118 Exuberance

120 Court plea, informally

121 Bullfighter's cloak

122 Aiddn, e.g.

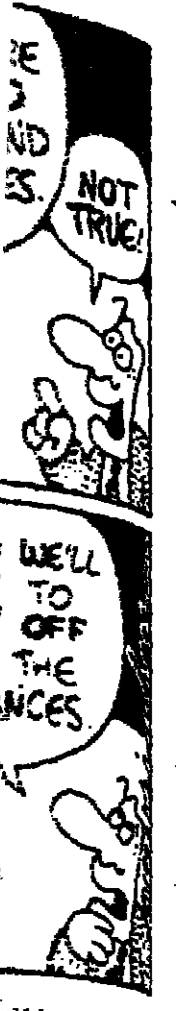
123 To the (completely)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

HOHND FANJEYS RUBSTICIN
 AROSE STEAKUP INBARAGE
 WILDA THERITIC INSPRING
 HODAD OED SCALERS LIT
 ALI SPINES ITEN STE
 VENTAT STRAHERS EPIC
 GUNLEY INTERS GING
 SPANIEL ACTON DOINGS
 PEFEPFOUNAIN ALOHE
 ORBS SOV NEUGATE OTC
 USA LAIRAL SHAPES CAR
 TEY LIVONDO ENA BENE
 ELLEN FLORALS PRAYS
 METRES CADRE NARRAS
 AXONS GIACCHI FANONS
 LOTS POOLTABLE TWEETS
 LOW RAUL TIERRA LIAV
 ONO BASSO ANI ADELA
 WELLDENTIONED RAVAL
 ENFORCE MARKING TIRE
 STEALER ENTENTE DENTS

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

25 ימים



Queen Margrethe: My cooking won't kill you; my driving might. (Jerry Bergamas)

Danes' beloved queen marks 25 years as monarch

Denmark's Queen Margrethe II, who tomorrow celebrates 25 years on Europe's oldest throne, heads a royal family remarkable for the affection and respect it commands in a fiercely egalitarian society.

Elderly suburbanites and inner-city punks can be seen on state occasions, waiting on freezing street corners for a glimpse of the queen, her 86-year-old mother Queen Ingrid, or the princes Frederik and younger brother Joachim.

Royal controversy is rare and mild compared to the scandals plaguing her cousins in Britain. The Danish queen's public smoking, and an affair between Crown Prince Frederik and a former underwear model, are about the spiciest items.

The smoking issue revived ancient enmities with neighboring Sweden this month when Swedish newspaper columnist Hagge Geigert slammed the Danish monarch for setting a bad example by lighting up in public places and "spreading poison around her."

Geigert said that the queen "puffed away freely" during a visit to asthmatic residents of an old people's home and he compared her unfavorably to Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf, who also smokes, but only in private.

"Is it a sign of responsibility for the Swedish king to sink off to the toilets to have a drag on the sly?" the Danish tabloid *Ekstra Bladet* asked, in response.

Asked during the jubilee news conference to comment on her "smoking problem," the queen's response was terse. "I have no problem," she said.

On the other main issue of public interest, 28-year-old Prince Frederik's three-year romance with 26-year-old

Danish model Katya-Nielsen, debate was less concerned with the relationship itself than with the queen's reported opposition to the match. A poll showed unanimous public support for the prince's right to choose his own bride and the *Politiken* broadsheet appealed to Margrethe in an editorial.

"The time for arranged marriages is past, and the monarchy will survive longer with a happy person on the throne. A mother's heart should understand this," it wrote.

But the heat of publicity and frost from the palace appeared too much for the lovers, and in October 1996 lawyers for the beautiful daughter of a provincial businessman issued a statement: "Katya, Storkholm Nielsen hereby wishes to make it known that her relationship with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Frederik is terminated."

"Katya Storkholm Nielsen does not wish to discuss the matter further," it said.

Both Frederik and Joachim, who married Hong Kong economist Alexandra Manley in November 1995, are clearly adored by their mother, who peppers her conversation with references to "my boys," but they are far from pampered.

A high-speed car crash which injured both princes bought them a well-publicized reprimand from their mother in 1998, and the boys' father, French-born Prince Henrik, does not refute his reputation as a strict parent.

The most important thing in bringing up children is to help them get the best out of themselves.

If you really want to help your children you have to sometimes show them the harshness of life," he told journalists at the capital's Amalienborg Palace.

MARGRETHE became queen at the age of 31 on January 14, 1972, when her father King Frederik IX died after a two-week illness.

Thanks to a 1953 constitutional reform which amended the right of succession to include royal daughters, she became the first woman to ascend to the 1,012-year-old throne since the first Queen Margrethe was crowned in 1353.

A second cousin to Britain's Queen Elizabeth, she is also related, through the Greek royal family, to Prince Philip. Educated at two Danish universities and France's Sorbonne, as well as Cambridge and the London School of Economics in Britain, she once described herself as an eternal student. She is a capable artist who has designed sets and costumes for television and for the Royal Ballet. She has also illustrated a Danish edition of J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*.

Asked by a journalist if she had also mastered more mundane skills, such as driving and cooking, she said that she was a reasonable cook but had not driven herself for so long that she no longer had a valid license.

"Let me put it this way, my food wouldn't kill anyone but I'm not sure that you would survive my driving," she said.

Jubilee celebrations are relatively modest. Tomorrow's activities are restricted mainly to family and other Scandinavian royals, with a Thanksgiving service and official banquet.

The highlight of the anniversary for the public will be a January 15 carriage procession through Copenhagen escorted by a troop of cavalry, and a televised gala performance from the Royal Ballet in the evening. (Reuters)

Better the god you know

Studies suggest that education can bring unaffiliated Jews back to the fold. Ronda Robinson reports from Knoxville, Tennessee

really a half-sister, would have a pancake breakfast on Christmas morning, by the tree. Does that tell you anything about how un-Jewish I was raised?"

As a child, Bristein participated in the Women's Circle youth league. Her recollections of Judaism pertain to food: the smells of knishes and women baking for the bazaar. In 1969 she hitchhiked to California and sampled a smorgasbord of happenings: yoga, meditation groups, Sufi dancing, communes. She happened to encounter "singing Rabbi" Shlomo Carlebach at one of the spiritual gatherings, and he later performed her wedding. "I just remember hear-

ago to head an Orthodox congregation, has noticed a similar pattern in Nashville, Tennessee. While more people have intermarried, more have balanced the seesaw by sending their children to Jewish day schools. "When it came to their children's identity, they made a pretty decisive turn - they want them to be in an intensive Jewish environment," he says. "That is an encouraging thing."

The rabbi divides unaffiliated Jews into two categories: those who abandon the fold altogether and those who leave their synagogue. The former bothers him. He explains: "It's Judaism that becomes a point of concern. If they leave the congregation there can be a thousand different reasons, social reasons, personal reasons, the rabbi, all different kinds of reasons."

After World War Two, North Americans broke their ties to old Jewish communities in the center cities, he notes. The exodus to the suburbs meant children lacked the connection with a broad Jewish life that earlier generations had. "So what was a tremendous achievement for the parents who grew up in the 30s, in the Depression years, and their determination that their children were going to have a better world, was a marvelous thing," Posner says.

"Their kids are going to go to college, get every degree that they want and go into professions. And they're going to have financial security, which is very nice, when you compare it to not being hungry, not being worried about a job," Posner continued. But the children, who have a car at 16, a TV set in their bedroom, and access to a ritzy country club, realize that life must offer more. They explore other paths, thinking classical Torah Judaism has nothing to offer.

An example is Judaica artist Arnold Schwarzbart, who investigated possibilities varying from Zen Buddhism to Russian mysticism. He was born in Russia in 1942 to a family more committed to social justice than religious observance. "I grew up in a house where a nice ham was tradition. My parents went to shul on High Holidays only, but no other time," says the past president of his synagogue in Knoxville.

The turning point came when he discovered Jewish mysticism. A student of philosophy, physics, zoology, and chemistry who earned one of his two undergraduate degrees in architecture, he was always entranced by the big questions. "I think mysticism concerns itself with the big questions," explains Schwarzbart, "like why we're here, is there some sort of order to the universe? Is there the notion of other realms of existence? Is there the notion of a divine source of irony?"

Ironically, his studies of Jane Roberts' Seth material - information believers say is channeled from the other side - laid the foundation for his growing Jewish education. "It represented a vocabulary and a context from which I could then approach the Jewish mystical literature," he says.

Schwarzbart and his wife, Mary Linda, keep a kosher home, host large Shabbat and festival dinners, attend services regularly, study Jewish texts, stay active in a variety of Jewish organizations, help bring scholars-in-residence to town, and serve as the force behind a Talmud Torah class that has met for years. This, from a man who once found contemporary Judaism dry as dust and barren of spiritual insight.

Rabbis and lay leaders say such an encounter with Jewish education can help stem the tide of drifters. As Mayer reports, of Americans with nine or more years of Jewish education, 37 percent remain unaffiliated, as compared with 69 percent of those with no Jewish education. Posner says Judaism contains the fire the unaffiliated often seek in other quarters; if only they knew to look. "It's both emotion and brains," he says of the heritage. "It's hands and feet. It's everything. The total person is involved."

Rabbi Yehoshua Kahan, former religious leader of Knoxville's Conservative synagogue who now serves as assistant director of a Safed-based learning center, adds: "There's a kabbalistic idea of gathering up the sparks that were trapped in the husks, trapped in the stifled places throughout the world. Those sparks are ideas. Those sparks are souls. Those sparks are Jews who've come and gone."

"That doesn't mean everything they come back with is kosher or can be made kosher. But it's not the case that Jews who have been elsewhere have to come back with their tail between their legs. Rather, their experiences and their ideas may lend new insights to Jewish teachings and practices."

It looks like the perfect Christmas service: the church decorated with white poinsettias, congregants in their red finery standing and swaying to carols, an interpreter for the deaf translating the music into sign language. After the singing ends, the congregation calls its pastors to the dais to honor them with a "love offering" - kind words and a Christmas bonus.

So what's strange about this picture? Well, three of the inner-city church leaders are Jewish - or were born Jewish, and they have accepted Jesus Christ as the messiah.

"I was born a Jew, I didn't change my religion. I simply changed my relationship with Christ," Steve Fatow, the 48-year-old senior pastor who found Jesus at age 22, says during the service. He recalls the glory of celebrating his first Christmas after always having felt cut off, as a Jewish boy growing up on Long Island, New York.

Other members of his team at Trinity Church, a charismatic New Testament congregation, include pastors Neil Silverberg, 43, and Ed Rosen, 53. They share a generally secular background, although Rosen, before his bar mitzvah, laid tefillin and wore tzitzit.

This vinity of pastors are among a half-dozen or more Jewish-born church leaders in Knoxville, Tennessee. Two of them, a couple who headed the liberal Unity Church, moved on to other pastures. Still, other Jews by birth are married to ministers here, and many more have sought a rainbow of different religious and spiritual paths. The stream of "hyphenated Jews" passing through Tennessee's third-largest city has included Jewish-Sikhs, Jewish-Buddhists, Jewish-Mormons, Jewish-Baptists and Jewish-Unitarians. Many more simply remain unaffiliated with Jewish institutions. They fall into the 55 percent of American Jews whom the National Jewish Population Survey found belong to neither a synagogue nor a community organization.

"It is worrisome, particularly when we ask ourselves: 'Why are we concerned with the unaffiliated in the first place?'" says Dr. Egon Mayer, a member of the National Technical Advisory Committee on Jewish Population Studies that oversaw the 1990 survey. "We're partly concerned about continuity of institution, and of course we're also concerned about the state of self-understanding of people who are unaffiliated. But clearly, from the vantage point of institutional Jewish life, the fact that the majority of identifiable households are not part of the system is a source of concern."

Mayer, executive director of the Jewish Outreach Institute in New York, notes that we tend to be just like our parents. At a conference on "The Unaffiliated Jew" sponsored by the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism, in 1995, Mayer observed that childhood education and upbringing often herald adult choices. He said that "it turns out when you ask people how they identify themselves in comparison to how they were raised, many people say: 'Yes my parents were Jewish but they were both Communists,' or 'They were both Unitarians and that's how I was raised.'"

Mayer has a theory: age, marital status, and parenthood predict when Jews will return to the fold. "Nobody seriously thinks about 20-year-old college students as unaffiliated, even though they technically are," he says. "They're more likely to be what I would call pre-affiliated." He remarks that behavior changes with age. "About half the people who were unaffiliated before their 30s and before they were married had kids, have all of a sudden affiliated."

Judy Bristein, 48, fits perfectly into Mayer's theory. Bristein grew up in the Amalgamated, a Socialist neighborhood in the Bronx. Her father attended an Orthodox synagogue, but her mother rebelled against Jewish tradition. Her siblings are so "un-Jewish," she says, they have celebrated Christmas. "My oldest sister, who's



Puppeteer Judy Bristein's siblings were so un-Jewish, they celebrated Christmas.

ing him sing," she says. "It just kind of struck a chord and brought back memories." Carlebach's soulful melodies stirred a long-buried sense of roots.

But she didn't plant herself on Jewish soil for a long time. She and her husband moved to a famous commune in Tennessee and lived off the land. Their sojourns next led to a small city where her 3-year-old daughter would come home from a church nursery school and talk about the devil. "It wasn't too long after that we



Artist Arnold Schwarzbart explored everything from Zen Buddhism to Russian mysticism. (Knoxville News-Sentinel)

moved to Knoxville," Bristein, a Realtor, recalls. "I felt at that point, because my second daughter was born, that the synagogue was top priority. Something clicked and we got involved very soon after."

Looking back on her reconnection with Judaism, she observes that with two young children, the family was ripe for the experience. "I think if you come in as a young family or as a single," she muses, "where you have other people that are in similar places as you, and you connect with them and do things together in a spiritual way, that can be very meaningful."

Rabbi Zalman Posner, whom the late Lubavitcher Rebbe sent South nearly 50 years

EARTHLY CONCERNS

If you've never tasted caviar, better do it soon

By DVORA BEN SHAUL

For centuries, caviar has been a symbol of luxury. At a cost of up to \$2000 a kilogram, it is not surprising that the roe of certain types of sturgeon has always been outside the budgetary possibilities of all save the most affluent members of the population.

But marine biologists and other scientists warn that the present generation may be the last to savor this world-renowned delicacy - this world-renowned delicacy - not because it will be too expensive for any but the most affluent, but because there most likely won't be any caviar left.

In a report issued last month, the wildlife trade monitoring arm of the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) said that if sturgeon fisheries are not given extremely rigid protection, then within another decade or so caviar may become a thing of the past.

About 90 percent of the world's caviar is produced by just three species of sturgeon in the Caspian Sea, among them the most prestigious caviar of all, the Beluga sturgeon. But the Caspian Sea is becoming more and more

polluted each year, and catches of sturgeon have already fallen 75 per cent in the past decade. The lowered catch rate has only led to even more extensive hunting of this food source.

TRAFFIC also warns of the danger of pollution that has apparently drastically lowered the breeding rate, so that not enough young sturgeon are being hatched to replace the ones caught. Laboratory analyses of shipments of Russian and Iranian caviar purchased from retailers in London showed concentrations of DDT, PCBs, and mercury in all samples analyzed.

One of the problems, says Paul Toyne, a biochemist with the World Wildlife Fund, is that the concentrations are not high enough to pose a danger to the consumer, but seem to be high enough to render the fish either sterile or at least to severely lower their reproductive capacity.

Sturgeons take anywhere from six to 25 years to achieve sexual maturity, depending on food supply, water temperature, and variations in sub-species. As more and more hunting besieges these fish, younger and younger specimens are caught and killed, only to be

found without roe and of no use to caviar processors. In addition, since the fish mature at such an advanced age, they have plenty of time to accumulate even small amounts of these pollutants in their tissues.

The restrictive practices of the former Soviet Union kept sturgeon hunting under severe control since the sturgeon were considered a national resource that brought large amounts of foreign currency into the country. Since the break up of the USSR a virtual anarchy has reigned in the sturgeon fishing areas and there is virtually no control over the size or condition of sturgeons taken.

A few attempts are underway by the WWF in growing sturgeon under controlled, pollution-free conditions, but it will be years before anyone will know if they have succeeded or not. In the meantime, the degradation of the sea and the dwindling sturgeon crop threatens to wipe out this luxury food. While the absence of caviar will have little effect on the starving millions in the world, it will certainly be missed by some, not only for its delightful taste, but for its value as one of the world's great status symbols.

TO GERSHN

- Tales of People of Zjemin

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Friday Morning Forum

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



DAVID BAR-ILLAN

Prime Minister's Senior Policy Adviser

FRIDAY, 24th JANUARY 10:30 a.m.

ZOA House, 1 Daniel Frisch, corner Ibn Gvirol, Tel Aviv.

Admission NIS 10

early booking: ZOA House Tel. 03-6959341

Moderator: Tom O'Dwyer

Foreign Editor, The Jerusalem Post

BUSINESS & FINANCE

The Jerusalem Post

Monday, January 13, 1997

BUSINESS

in brief

\$750 million worth of bonds for sale

Israel hopes this week to sell \$750 million of bonds, backed by US guarantees, the Finance Ministry confirmed yesterday. Treasury director-general David Brodet and other senior officials are in the US to implement the sale. Israel hopes to raise \$2.7 billion over the next two years. *David Harris*

December job-seekers up by 5,200

The number of job-seekers rose by 5,200 in December to 129,700, the Employment Service announced yesterday. This is a 7.1% increase after seasonal adjustments. During the final quarter of last year, 69,555 people registered for the first time with the service, but the overall number dropped by 58,556 in the same period. *David Harris*

NIS 5.2 b. spent on civilian R&D

National expenditure on civilian research and development totaled NIS 5.2 billion in 1994, according to statistics published last week by the Central Bureau of Statistics. That figure amounted to 2.3 percent of the Gross Domestic Product. *David Harris*

Bank Leumi expects growth

Leading investment bank BZW, which is based in London, forecasts Bank Leumi's earnings will continue to grow in 1997, despite an expected slowdown in economic growth. In a report on the country's second largest bank, BZW said "earnings growth should be driven by a new dynamic and lean management team with a clear strategy for increasing efficiency, levels of service and profitability." *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Cables of Zion, Cvalim begin merger talks

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Cables of Zion, a subsidiary of Clal Industries, and Cvalim, controlled by Ofer Brothers Investments, are in preliminary discussions to merge. Clal, said in a notice to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday.

Cables and Cvalim are among the country's leading cable and wire manufacturers. Due to competition from foreign manufacturers, which has hindered the local market's earnings, the firms are considering the possibility of merging activities in an attempt to increase market share and benefit from economies of scale.

Clal made the announcement in reaction to reports that a merger agreement had already been reached. Published reports claim Cvalim will control 60% of the merged company and

Cables the remaining 40%. The merged company will reportedly be managed by Cvalim general manager Miki Goldschmit while the chairman will be Yuli Ofer. There will be no exchange of funds.

In the announcement, Clal said appointment of a general manager to the company has not yet been decided upon.

Assuming an agreement is reached, the merged company will have nine plants, five of Cvalim and four of Cables. The net worth of Cvalim is estimated at NIS 311m, while the net worth of Cables amounts to about NIS 177m.

Cables and Cvalim showed disappointing results in the third quarter of 1996. Cables registered an operational loss and reported a 26% drop in sales, to NIS 57.5m. Cvalim, which reported a sharp decline in profits, announced a 30% drop in sales, to NIS 81.4m.

Trade deficit for 1996 at \$10.5 billion, up 4% on '95

By DAVID HARRIS

The country's total 1996 trade deficit totalled \$10.5b., up \$430m., or 4 percent on the previous 12 months, according to figures published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Israel's exports to the Palestinian Authority stood at \$1.55 billion last year, with \$235 million imported, giving a \$1.315b. trade surplus. This is the first time that the PA has appeared on Israel's annual trade balance-sheet.

This increase in the deficit is considerably smaller than those of the previous two years. The deficit increased \$2.8b. (38%) in 1995, and \$1.2b. (19.5%) in 1994.

Imports reached \$29.6b., 5.7% higher than in 1995, after increases of 20% in 1995 and 16% in 1994.

Meanwhile, exports brought in \$19.1b. last year, a 6.5% rise on the previous year, following increases of 11.5% in 1995 and 14% in 1994.

Since the end of the first quarter last year, imports, excluding ships, airplanes, diamonds, fuel and trade with the PA, have been

shrinking at a monthly average 0.6%, compared to monthly increases of 1% to 2% during 1995. Exports registered a monthly 0.4% increase, compared to the monthly 0.8% recorded in 1995.

Of the \$29.6b. imported, excluding trade with the PA, some 25% (\$7.2b.) comprised diamonds, fuel, ships and airplanes. A further 40% was from the import of raw materials, 16% investment goods and 11% consumer goods.

Exports in the month, came to \$1.63b., 74% of which were industrial exports, 5% agricultural, with the remainder diamonds and other goods.

Exports, excluding diamonds, 26% diamonds, 4% agricultural goods, and 2% software.

Imports totalled \$2.6b. in December, a third of which came from diamonds, together with fuel, ships and airplanes. A further 40% was from the import of raw materials, 16% investment goods and 11% consumer goods.

Exports in the month, came to \$1.63b., 74% of which were industrial exports, 5% agricultural, with the remainder diamonds and other goods.

Manufacturers: Worst industrial quarter in 7 years

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The local industrial market suffered a slowdown in sales in the third quarter of 1996, its worst quarter in the last seven years, the Manufacturers Association announced yesterday. There was also a decrease in productivity and number of people employed in the sector.

A survey of 180 companies in the industrial sector indicates there will be a continued drop in earnings from exports in the first quarter of 1997, despite an increase in export sales.

Industrial firms also forecast a continued decline in local market sales and a drop in investments in the first quarter, said Suki Abramovich, director of the association's economics division.

Twenty-five percent of those surveyed do not have investment plans for the near future while 20% have plans for the next three years. In the fourth quarter of 1996, 47% of manufacturers reported a decrease in local market sales, including 15% that reported a significant drop, especially in textiles. Thirty-five percent of those surveyed reported a growth in

exports, compared with 25% that registered a drop. Abramovich said the improvement was due, among others, to seasonal factors.

According to the survey, 56% of the exporters reported an erosion in profits, including 15% that reported a significant drop. Only 6% of the exporters reported an increase in earnings from exports.

In the reported period 41% of all firms reduced production, while 30% increased production. Thirty-one percent of all firms reduced their workforce, compared with 14% that hired more workers.

Merhav, Salem sell 50% of joint Israeli-Arab oil venture

By DAVID HARRIS

Merhav Mnf. Ltd. of Israel and the Hussein K. Salem Group of Egypt have both sold 50 percent of their interests in an oil refinery, currently under construction outside Alexandria, to the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation. This means EGPC has now acquired 60% of the \$1.2 billion refinery project, which is the largest Arab-Israeli joint venture to date.

Until the sale went ahead, late last week, both Hussein K. Salem and Merhav owner Yossi Maiman held 40% of shares, but have now reduced their investments from \$360 million to \$180m. each.

The refinery will produce an estimated 100,000 barrels a day, or 5 million tons of crude oil a year, two-and-a-half times the amount Israel annually imports from Egypt.

Hapoalim: Company profits will fall in '97

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Bank Hapoalim economists place a high investment priority on investments in large to medium-sized companies with a high growth potential in Israel and abroad, particularly those in the chemicals, food, marketing or insurance sectors.

The bank yesterday published a forecast of the performance of the stock market in 1997. The economist expect a continued drop in firms' gross profit margins and operating profits this year, reflecting a continued erosion in the currency rate, relatively high real-interest rates and intense market competition.

Assuming the economic situation improves, the bank expects financial statements for the first six months of 1997 to show an improvement in corporate profitability and for share prices to rise.

The factors which affected the share market in 1996, mainly political and economic developments, are expected to continue to influence trading this year, said Hapoalim. The bank does not expect any major political breakthroughs in 1997, adding that progress in this

area is an essential precondition for the development of a "growth" (high-growth) sector of the share market.

Assuming the government goes ahead with its economic program, the analysts expect a positive impact on the market. But the economic slowdown which commenced in 1996 is expected to continue to hinder many companies' performance.

Referring to the different sectors of the economy, the analysts forecast the chemical sector will benefit from investments of about \$500 million made last year. The food sector is expected to benefit from the signing of partnership agreements between local and overseas food manufacturers, but some companies will suffer from higher competition in the market.

Marketing chains' sales are expected to grow in 1997, despite competition and the expected slowdown in private consumption, said Hapoalim, adding that this will mainly hinder the smaller chains. The large insurance firms are expected to continue to control the market this year and reap increased earnings, mainly from the life insurance sector.

Zim, Bezeq, Israel Chemicals, likely to top privatization list

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Senior civil servants will today present the government privatization program to a ministerial committee for approval.

The list of state-firms to be sold off this year will most likely include Israel Chemicals Ltd., Zim Israel Navigation Company Ltd. and Bezeq.

The committee, comprising Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, will hear an outline of the proposals from Prime Minister's Office deputy director-general Moshe Leon and Government Companies Authority director-general Tzipi Livni.

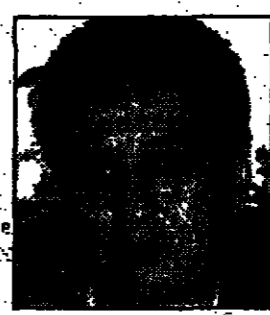
It is almost certain that Israel Electric Corporation will not be on the list of companies for sale within the next two years, but will be one of the last state assets to be tackled by the government. It is also expected that Mekorot will not be on the initial list of companies.

The timetable for privatizing El Al is still unclear. A team headed by Leon and Transport Ministry director-general Nahum Langenthal is scheduled to publish its report on the issue today. Faced with huge anticipated 1996 losses, many close to the company and senior government officials are questioning whether

the company can be sold at all during the next four years. The company is predicting \$100 million in losses when it publishes its annual report in April.

One possibility for the company, according to sources in the Prime Minister's Office, is to sell its assets individually, leaving the core company for sale at some future date.

Meanwhile, Leon's vision of insisting Bank Hapoalim sell its assets to Clal and Koor before privatization seems likely to falter, with Leon himself admitting "this could cause a delay in the sale of the bank, and that is the last thing I would want to be responsible for."



Tzipi Livni

September-December funds post positive returns

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Most of the banks' provident funds achieved positive real returns of 1% to 2% in 1996, mainly due to the turnaround in the capital market in the last four months of the year.

The funds reported negative yields in the first eight months of the year as a result of the slump in the capital market and the public's lack of confidence. According to figures from the five largest banks, the public withdrew about NIS 11.9 billion from the funds in 1996, the highest sum ever taken out in one year.

Unlike most of the year, the funds accumulated assets of NIS 397m. in December. The positive accumulation was due to the public's taking advantage of end-of-year tax benefits and investors' gradual return to the market.

Among the largest funds, Bank Hapoalim's Gadish reported a real positive yield of 1.3% since the start of the year and 1.46% in December. The fund manages assets of NIS 12.03b.

Bank Leumi's Otzma fund posted a real yield of 1.9% in 1996 and 1.37% in December while Bank Discount's Tamar achieved an accumulated real yield of 0.17% last year and 1.52% in December.

First International Bank's funds achieved average real yields of 1.5% last year. The bank's Matzen fund which specializes in investments in bonds, achieved a positive real return of 2.84%, the highest in the sector.

First International said its funds attracted NIS 129.6m. in December, representing 32.6% of the public's total investments in the funds.

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with
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For information and registration, call the AACI at 03-629-9799.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.425	5.675	6.050
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.250
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.925	0.925	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (10.1.97)

CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Prop.
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.5769	3.6367			3.6165
U.S. dollar	3.2171	3.2890	3.16	3.32	3.2490
German mark	2.0384	2.0713	2.00	2.11	2.0591
Pound sterling	0.8041	0.8076	0.82	0.83	0.8109
French franc	2.7886	2.8355	2.74	2.85	2.8139
Japanese yen (100)	1.8161	1.8454	1.78	1.88	1.8249
Dutch guilder	2.9445	2.9774	2.92	3.02	2.9749
Swiss franc	0.4874	0.4950	0.48	0.49	0.4871
Norwegian krona	0.5040	0.5122	0.48	0.52	0.5002
Danish krona	0.5351	0.5438	0.52	0.52	0.5404
Finnish mark	0.8942	0.8983	0.87	0.71	0.8942
Canadian dollar	2.4770	2.4774	2.33	2.46	2.4044
Australian dollar	0.8898	0.9010	0.82	0.88	0.8878
S. African rand	0.9882	1.0042	0.97	1.02	0.9978
Belgian franc (10)	2.6873	2.8441	2.64	2.99	2.8281
Austrian schilling (10)	0.9882	1.0042	0.97	1.02	0.9978
Italian lira (1000)	4.4700	4.7800	4.47	4.78	4.6342
Jordanian dinar	0.9100	0.9900	0.91	0.98	0.9549
Egyptian pound (EGP)	3.9642	4.0282			4.0282
Irish punt	5.3243	5.4102	5.23	5.49	5.3983
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4356	2.4749	2.39	2.51	2.4815

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Gold gets most from US jobs report

Commodities Roundup

Kohl mulls VAT hike

RUSSEIN

Key Representative Rates	
US Dollar	NIS 3.2490
Sterling	NIS 5.4983
Mark	NIS 2.0681

Austrian gov't sells stake in flagship bank Creditanstalt

By KURT ENGELMANN

VIENNA (Reuters) - Creditanstalt CABV was sold to arch-rival Bank Austria yesterday, ending a seven-year battle over control of Austria's flagship bank and sending shockwaves through the financial sector.

A visibly relieved Chancellor Franz Vranitzky told reporters after an 11-hour crisis meeting of coalition leaders of his Social Democratic Party and the conservative People's Party that Bank Austria had put in the best bid for the state's 70 percent voting stake in Austria's second biggest bank.

"I can tell you that the state's stake in Creditanstalt will go to the highest bidder, which is Bank Austria," he said, closing the chapter on a sale which deeply divided the coalition and raised the spectre of a government collapse.

The 141-year-old Creditanstalt, former banker to the Austro-Hungarian empire, will retain its independence for the next five years. Over the same period, market leader Bank Austria will be taken out of public control step by step. Full privatization of Austria's top bank, controlled by the City of Vienna and

partly state-owned, was a key demand of the conservatives. They had threatened to team up with the far-right opposition in parliament against a sale to what they described as a "socialist" banking dinosaur.

Finance Minister Viktor Klima, who was in charge of the privatization, said Bank Austria would offer Creditanstalt's small shareholders an extra two schillings (NIS 0.9) per ordinary share to buy the 30% of voting shares not yet owned by the state - a premium of 0.3% over their market price.

It was the first emergency session of coalition leaders since a snap general election in December 1995 and it took place in an atmosphere of mutual recrimination over the sale. Klima, eager to get Europe's longest-running privatization project off his desk as fast as possible, said he would rush to his office immediately and put his signature on the contract.

"The transaction will be closed immediately, I will go to my office right now and sign the contract," he said.

According to the coalition agreement, the state's 19% stake in Bank Austria will be floated immediately, while the 45% stake held by the City of Vienna's Anteilsverwaltung

Zentralsparkasse (AVZ) foundation is to be cut to below 20% within seven years.

The reduction of AVZ's stake would be achieved through a series of capital increases in which the foundation would not take part, Klima said.

People's Party leader Wolfgang Schuessel, who lost his battle to keep Creditanstalt firmly in the conservative camp but scored on a number of side issues, said it had not been easy for his party to agree to Bank Austria as the winner. "This was a very hard but also a very good round of talks. The decision wasn't easy for us," he said after the meeting.

The two banks will have combined assets of about 14 billion schillings and control a major part of Austria's retail and wholesale banking market. Together, they hold wide-reaching interests in the country's key industries.

There was no immediate statement from an international consortium of industrial and financial interests led by insurer EA-Generali, which had submitted a rival offer. It was outbid by Bank Austria by about two billion schillings. A Creditanstalt spokesman told Reuters the bank had not yet been informed about its new owner.

Stocks near three-year high

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

Robert Daniel



Shares closed in on a three-year high yesterday, buoyed by a report last week that investors were again putting money into funds that manage partly tax-exempt savings plans.

Leading shares higher were Elbit Ltd., Leumi Insurance Holdings, Bezeq, IDB Holdings and the major banks.

"There's a definite influx of money coming from the mutual funds," said Oren Meytes, senior analyst at Menial Securities.

At the same time, trading is relatively low. Three years ago volumes were reaching an inflation-adjusted NIS 500 million, he said.

Investors also are watching for Wednesday's report on the consumer price index, which will give them a clue about whether the central bank will cut interest rates, Meytes said.

The Two-sided Index of 100 leading issues advanced 2.05 percent to 232.26, while the Maof Index climbed 2.15% to 240.66. The Maof was last this high on February 6, 1994, when it closed at 245.1.

Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 170.1m. of shares traded, 13% over the month's daily average of NIS 150.6m. and more than twice December's average NIS 84.6m.

Leumi Insurance was the most active issue, trading NIS 29.4m. of shares. Leumi Insurance, trading for the normal daily limit of 10% up or down, jumped 61.5% to NIS 2.33. The company was spun off from Bank Leumi and Africa Israel Investments Ltd.

Shares of Elbit, the producer of computer-networking and electronic textile-inspection equip-

ment, soared 8.5% to NIS 8.21 after its shares traded in New York leaped 8.1% Thursday and Friday.

Koor Industries Ltd. rose 3% to NIS 308.5. Koor's American depositary receipts, each representing 0.2 share traded in Tel Aviv, advanced a total 1.3% in New York.

Bezeq and Israel Chemicals rose 2.75% and 1.5% to NIS 8.56 and NIS 3.21 respectively.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu today will present to a ministerial panel a plan for selling state assets, including holdings in Bezeq and ICL.

Makhteshim Chemical Works Ltd. shares climbed 2% to NIS 14.83 as they were upgraded at Zannex Securities. The firm called the stock cheaper than that of its peers in the US.

Bank Leumi climbed 3.75% to 5.15. Bank Hapoalim added 2.25% to 5.7. Discount Bank jumped 3.25% to 3.56 and First International Series 5 gained 2.5% to 1.961.82.

IDB Holdings tacked on 3% to 64.97. Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., which accounts for nearly 10% of the Maof index, moved up 1.75% to 17.28.

On the Maof Index: Koor subsidiary Tadiran Ltd. advanced 1.5% to 94.9. Among the other chemical companies, Dead Sea Works rose 1.25% to 8.89. Adgan added 2% to 66.81 and Bromine climbed 1% to 17.64.

Elco Holdings, with interests in retailing and consumer appliances, among others, moved up 0.5% to 25.7. Supersol added 1 percent to 8.79.

Elron Electronic Industries Ltd. added 2% to 39.57. Elron Industries Series 5 slipped 0.25% to 8.3.

(Bloomberg)

Gold gets boost from US jobs report

Commodities Roundup

Precious metals futures closed mostly higher Friday, benefiting from sharp gains in US non-farm payrolls.

The December non-farm payroll data increased 262,000, with the unemployment unchanged at 5.3 percent. December average hourly earnings rose 6 cents to \$12.05, which suggested moderate inflation and prompted some players to do light buying, an analyst said.

Floor sources also mentioned that gold's trade was "impacted by Friday's expiration of COMEX options. Traders attempted to keep February gold as close to the \$360 strike price as possible. After making good gains on concerns that exports from Russia may be limited, March palladium futures closed slightly lower.

February gold closed up \$1.40 at \$360.20. March silver closed up 3 cents \$4.7650. April platinum closed up \$2.30 at \$368.80 and March palladium closed down 5 cents at \$125.95.

High-grade copper futures closed slightly lower as light selling pressure emerged. Analysts said some of this profit taking may be due to a somewhat overbought situation that is beginning to emerge.

Soybeans traded sharply higher, closing at limit up (up 30 points) on Friday, supported by bullish US Department of Agriculture Grain Stocks and 1996 Annual Crop Production report and from short covering.

New York world sugar futures settled lower on the day on speculator and light fund selling, with 55000 commercial contracts remaining according to floor trading.

New York coffee futures settled higher on the day on speculator and commercial trade buying, according to industry sources. Brazil recently held an auction of about 110,000 bags of extremely old coffee, specifically seven to 10 years old. The entire auction was sold out, indicating that somebody had a need for this coffee - even though it was not exportable. Traders were questioning this need for old coffee if production figures indicate enough to satisfy both Brazil's domestic and export markets.

The March coffee futures contract settled 25 points higher at \$1.1960. March cocoa futures settled lower on the day on late speculator and fund selling, which triggered sell stops, according to an analyst.

Courtesy of Michael Zweibner, CommStock Trading Ltd.

Kohl mulls VAT hike

BONN (Reuters) - Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) said Saturday they supported discussions on a rise in value added tax which could help to reduce supplemental wage costs as well as fund a tax reform.

Peter Hintze, general secretary of the CDU, told a news conference at the end of a two-day party leadership meeting that the CDU would discuss how to use the funds once the government tax and pension commissions make their proposals. The CDU position contrasted with that of its sister party in Bavaria, the Christian Social Union (CSU), which argues a rise in VAT should be used to fund the government's planned sweeping tax reform for 1999, but should not be used for other purposes.

HUSSEIN

(Continued from Page 1) would be leaving the region last night. This decision was made since the Palestinians had yet to put forward a counterproposal and the Ross talks in Cairo on Saturday were deemed to be unsuccessful.

Arafat's cabinet said in a statement on Saturday: "The talks are close to a dead-end."

Hussein arrived in Gaza City late afternoon by helicopter, was welcomed by Arafat and whisked by limousine to his seatfront office, where a band played the Jordanian and PA anthems.

It was Hussein's first visit to Gaza since 1967 and the first by an Arab head of state. It was also the first visit by a foreign leader to Gaza that was not a side trip after a visit to Israel.

Hussein met with Arafat at Ross's urging.

London's tube may be sold

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's Conservative government plans to privatize London's underground railway network if it wins the next general election, the Independent on Sunday said.

It said a firm commitment to sell off the network, which has 260 stations and total assets worth £13 billion (NIS 75 billion), would figure in the Conservatives' manifesto if the next election was held before May 1.

"It is true that work is at an initial stage in the department on taking forward ideas for securing further private sector involvement in the London Underground system," said a Department of Transport spokesman.

The Conservative Labor Party, currently well ahead in the opinion polls, vowed to fight the idea. Labor mounted a long campaign against the recent privatization of the country's rail network, saying the results so far had been disastrous.

Shadow transportation minister Glenda Jackson said the reported plans for selling off the underground, or "tube," was "an attempt to drive the final nail into the coffin of public transport in this country."

Labor sources said the party would focus on the issue in the southeast of England since it believed it would be a vote-winner with the 2.5 million commuters who use the system every day.

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Seoul faces reform struggle

SEOUL (Reuters) - The government of South Korean President Kim Young-sam, battling striking workers over labor reform, will also face a struggle to implement the financial restructuring needed to boost the economy, analysts said.

President Kim said last week the heavily controlled financial sector urgently needed reform to bring it in line with global trends. He said a Committee for Financial Reform would be set up to draft proposals aimed at improving competitiveness. But analysts said at the weekend Kim would face stiff opposition from powerful bureaucrats.

"Allmighty government officials will not give up their control easily," said Koo Kyung-ho, a senior economist at Dongwon

Economic Research Institute. Lee Hahn-ku, president of the Daewoo Research Institute, said: "Financial reforms have been a buzzword since Kim's inauguration in 1993. But the refreshed call for reform shows Kim has done little so far to improve the financial industry."

Government officials said initial measures, including a cut in rediscount rates, would be taken to lower interest rates and later more sweeping steps would be implemented, such as the scaling-back of business barriers among financial institutions.

Economists have said mergers and acquisitions in the financial sector would eventually be allowed to assist a further market opening.

TEL AVIV STOCKS									
Multi-sided trading					Two-sided trading				
Commercial					AFTERNOON				
Name	Price	% Change	Volume	% Volume	Name	Price	% Change	Volume	% Volume
Bank Leumi	5.15	+3.75	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Hapoalim	5.70	+2.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Discount	3.56	+3.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank First Int'l	1.96	+2.5	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank IDB	64.97	+3	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Makhteshim	17.28	+1.75	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Teva	14.83	+1.5	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Zannex	10.00	+0.5	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Bezeq	8.56	+1.5	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Israel Chem	8.89	+1.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elco	25.70	+0.5	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Supersol	8.79	+1	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron	39.57	+2	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S5	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S6	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S7	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S8	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
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Bank Elron S33	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S34	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S35	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S36	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S37	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S38	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S39	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S40	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S41	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S42	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S43	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S44	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S45	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S46	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S47	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S48	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S49	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S50	8.30	-0.25	100	1.0	Alparit	491	3.7	64000	473
Bank Elron S51	8.30	-0.25	100</						

Beckham goal sinks Spurs

Pack breaks away to top Carolina

LONDON (Reuters) — David Beckham added another spectacular goal to his collection as Manchester United beat Tottenham Hotspur 2-1 yesterday to move second in the Premier League.

London-born Beckham, who trained with Tottenham as a schoolboy, sealed Spurs' F.A. Cup exit at Old Trafford a week ago with a superb free kick and struck again 14 minutes from time from 25 meters to deny the home side a precious point.

Beckham, set to be a crucial member of the England side in this year's World Cup qualifying campaign, had previously had a quiet afternoon in one of United's less impressive performances.

They went ahead in the 23rd minute when Norwegian Ole Gunnar Solskjær slid the ball home, rough justice on Spurs who saw Steven Iversen and Andy Sinton hit the United bar in quick succession.

A headed equalizer from Rory Allen in the 44th minute set up a potentially intriguing second-half, but it took Beckham's goal to enliven a game which contained seven bookings.

The midfielder collected the ball just inside the Spurs' half and strode forward before crashing a right-foot shot into the top corner. United now has 41 points, two behind Liverpool with a game in hand.

GREEN BAY (AP) — Playing on the frozen tundra of Lambeau Field, Green Bay beat second-year Carolina 30-13 in the NFC championship game Sunday to reach the Super Bowl for the first time since Vince Lombardi's Packers beat Dallas in the "Ice Bowl" 29 years ago.

This year's heroes were Brett Favre and Dorsey Levens, Antonio Freeman and Gilbert Brown, none born when Lombardi's last team gave "Titletown, USA" its fifth NFL championship in seven seasons. This team, now 15-3, will head to New Orleans as the favorite over New England or Jacksonville to give the NFC its 13th straight title.

It was also a win for sentiment, sending 35-year-old Reggie White, the NFL's all-time sack leader, to his first Super Bowl.

The weather at 40-year-old Lambeau Field, where the Packers won their 18th in a row, wasn't as big a factor as expected.

It was 3 degrees F (-16 C) at gametime with a wind-chill of minus-17 (-27 C).

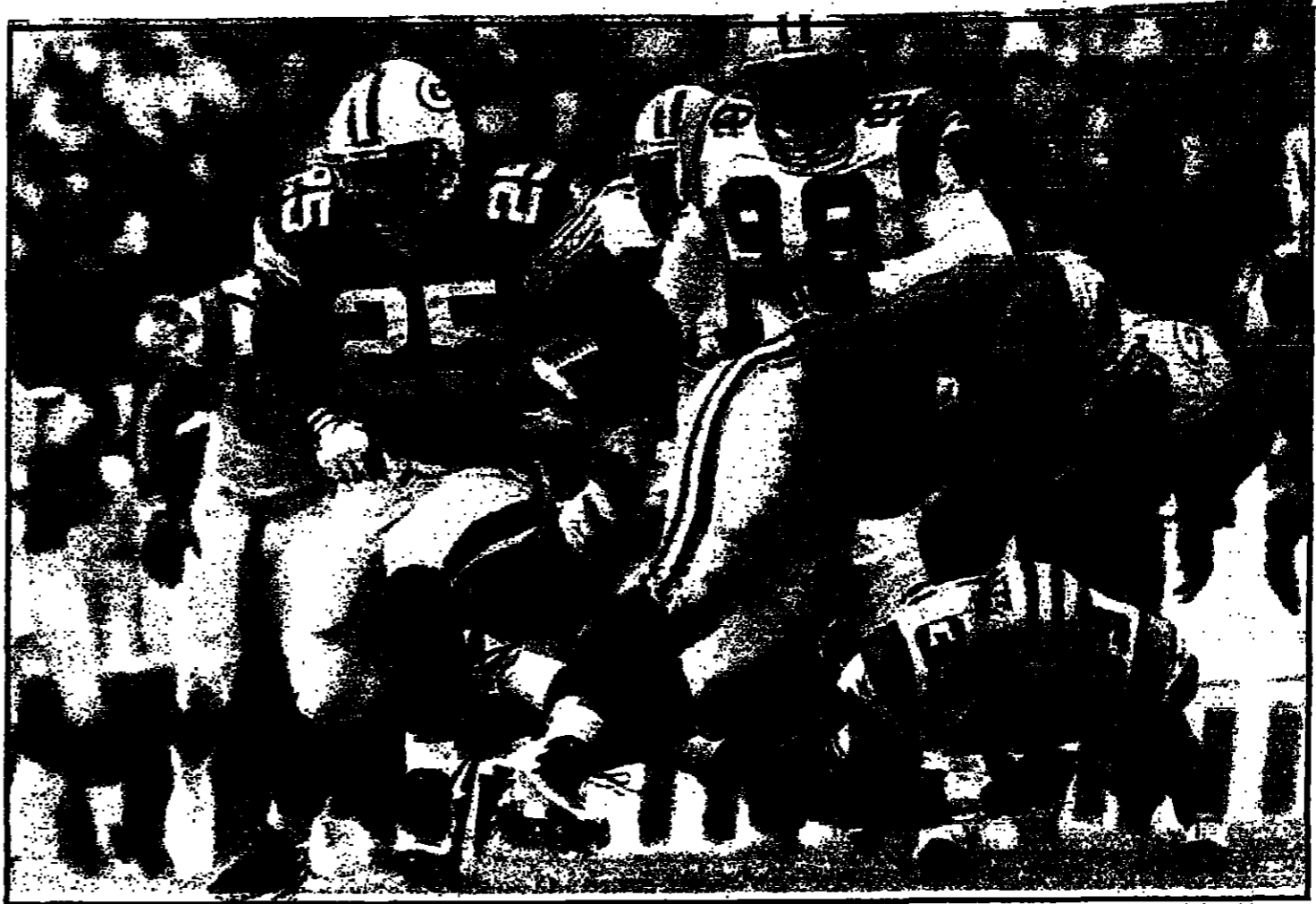
Favre, whose two turnovers helped Carolina to an early lead, was 19 of 29 for 292 yards, including touchdown passes of 29 yards to Levens and 6 yards to Freeman.

Levens had 205 total yards, 88 yards on 10 carries and 117 yards on five catches, including a 66-yard ramble with a screen pass that set up Edgar Bennett's 4-yard touchdown run.

This one was a contest for 29 minutes, or until the Packers scored 10 points within 38 seconds in the first half's final minute to turn a 10-7 deficit into a 17-10 lead.

They added three more on Chris Jacke's field goal on their first possession of the second half — 13 points in an eight-minute span in which Carolina had one offensive snap and put it away late in the third.

Without two Favre turnovers



LONG GAINER — Green Bay RB Dorsey Levens breaks away for a 20-yard gain in second-quarter action. The Packers beat the Panthers 30-13 to advance to the Super Bowl. (Reuters)

Hapoel Eilat enjoys net Gaines

By ELI GRONER

The National Basketball League resumed after its mid-season break last night with new additions coming on strong. Corey Gaines, Dennis Hopson and Roy Fisher were vital in Hapoel Eilat's, Givat Shmuel's and Ramat Gan's victories, while Maccabi Tel Aviv staved off a late Herzliya charge to remain undefeated.

Hapoel Eilat 78
Hapoel Jerusalem 75

Amir Katz buried a three-pointer at the buzzer, providing the southerners with a much-needed homecourt victory.

Katz's bucket capped an incredibly tight game that featured three lead changes in the final two minutes.

Gaines was in the middle of the action, scoring six points (21 overall) one assist and one steal in the final minute.

Twice it appeared that Eilat had tied the victory, but three-pointers by Adi Gordon and Papi Turgeman forced the game down to Eilat's final possession.

For Jerusalem, Motti Daniel and Billy Thompson netted 18 points apiece.

Maccabi Tel Aviv 80
Bnei Herzliya 74

The undefeated defending champions survived a scare by the indefatigable Herzliya club, as they barely held off the visitors.

With only 2:37 remaining, it was only a one-point game until Derrick Sharpe made a blind-side

steal and proceeded to drive the length of the court to convert a field goal.

Givat Shmuel 91
Hapoel Tel Aviv 68

Newcomer Dennis Hopson (23 points) gave the hometown fans plenty to cheer about, as he scored several fantastic baskets bringing General Manager Mickey Berkowitz to his feet. Dimitri Hill paced the Tel Avivians with 22.

Ramat Gan 92
Hapoel Holon 72

Ramat Gan thrashed the Holonites for the second time in a week. After defeating Niv Bugin's club by 24 points in State Cup play last week, Ramat Gan proved its superiority once more by routing Holon at home. Roy Fisher, in what might be his last game in Ramat Gan, tallied 22 points. Fisher is under immense pressure from his family to return to the US after last week's Tel Aviv bombing.

Tonight, Telephone Galil Elyon will travel to Ra'anana with an opportunity to take over second place. The game will be broadcast live on Channel 5 at 8:30 pm.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE			
Team	W	L	Pts.
Maccabi Tel Aviv	11	0	22
Hapoel Jerusalem	7	4	18
Maccabi Ramat Gan	6	5	17
Hapoel Galil Elyon	6	4	16
Hapoel Eilat	5	6	16
Givat Shmuel	5	6	16
Maccabi Ra'anana	5	5	15
Bnei Herzliya	4	7	15
Hapoel Holon	4	7	15
Hapoel Tel Aviv	3	9	14
Maccabi Rishon	3	7	13

The National League has disqualified Hapoel Safed. The team is currently appealing the ruling.

Horry traded to Lakers

INGLEWOOD (AP) — Robert Horry, recently suspended for throwing a towel in the face of Phoenix coach Danny Ainge, was traded to the Los Angeles Lakers in a four-player deal Friday that sent Cedric Ceballos back to the Suns.

Rumeal Robinson also went to Phoenix and Joe Kleine went to the Lakers.

It was the second major trade in 16 days for the Suns, who acquired All-Star guard Jason Kidd from Dallas last month.

Hingis aims to be youngest Aussie Open winner

SYDNEY (AP) — Boosted by her victory at the Sydney International, Martina Hingis heads into the Australian Open with a confidence that belies her tender years.

The Swiss tennis prodigy, just 16, is seeded fourth for the Open, which starts today at the National Tennis Center in Melbourne.

Monica Seles, at 17 years 1 month in 1991, is the youngest Australian Open women's champion, but Hingis says she believes she has a chance of winning and is now much more at ease with the high-pressure atmosphere of the Grand Slam tournaments.

"I feel much more comfortable at the Grand Slams," Hingis said after beating American Jennifer Capriati 6-1, 5-7, 6-1 on Saturday to win her third WTA Tour tournament.

"I always like to play in Australia. I think I have a pretty good draw at the Australian Open, where World No. 1 Steffi Graf is

the top seed.

"I would like to win a Grand Slam tournament, that's my big dream for this year. I think I have

Slam quarter-final at the 1996 Australian Open and then beat World No.1 Steffi Graf on her way to the final at the Italian Open. She

help him when he opens his defense of his Australian Open tennis title against Spaniard Carlos Moya.

The 29-year-old German, winner of six Grand Slam titles in his impressive career, took time out from his commitments at the Colonial Classic to watch Moya face Britain's Tim Henman in the final of the Sydney International on Saturday.

Moya lost in straight sets, but Becker expects he will still be in for a tough match at the National Tennis Center.

The Spaniard beat Becker in the first round of the Paris Indoors in November — their only previous meeting.

"To get to a final is a good achievement for a so-called clay courtier," Becker said. "I saw a few things he didn't do too well against Henman, but I also saw some things he did well."

Becker, who is seeded sixth, ended a five-year drought in Grand Slam tournaments by winning the Open last year and says he feels under absolutely no pressure.

He ended last year with five titles — including the Grand Slam Cup — and a place in the final of the ATP Tour Championship.

Becker lost to Michael Chang at the Colonial Classic after holding three match points, but says he's satisfied with his progress.

"My game has been getting better as the week goes on," he said Saturday.

If Becker wins the Australian Open, it will be his 50th career title, but the field is formidable one despite several withdrawals.

World No.1 Pete Sampras and No.2-ranked Chang are seeded to meet in the final and both open against lowly-ranked foes.

Sampras, who is seeking the ninth Grand Slam title of his career, cheerfully admits he had never heard of Dinu Pescariu, a 22-year-old Romanian qualifier.

Pescariu is ranked 169 in the world and has never been higher than 133 in five years as a professional. Making the second round of the French Open in 1991 is the highlight of his Grand Slam career.

Chang will face lucky loser Kris Goossens of Belgium as he aims to win his first Grand Slam event since the 1989 French Open.

He made the semis in Melbourne in 1995 and the final last year, where he lost to Boris Becker.

Third-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, an enigma who has never won a Grand Slam singles title despite his undoubted power and talent, begins against Australian wild card Ben Ellwood, while No. 5 seed Thomas Muster of Austria faces American qualifier Geoff Grant.

Ran lone Israeli in Open

Eyal Ran will be the only Israeli player in the main draw of the Australian Open. Ran, ranked 154 in the ATP Tour rankings, will play Justin Gimelstob (152) from the US in the first round in an evenly-matched battle. The winner is likely to play Byron Black from Zimbabwe (59) in the next round.

Last year Ran reached the second round, where he lost a four-set match to Australia's Mark Philippoussis. Of the Israelis in Melbourne, only Ran managed to pass the qualifying rounds. Eyal Erlich, Anna Smashnova and Hila Rosen all lost their first-round qualifying matches.

Heather Chair

a good chance to make it."

Hingis is expected to move to No.4 in the world rankings following her Sydney win.

She reached her first Grand

also reached the US Open semifinals in August.

In the men's singles, Boris Becker gleaned some tips watching television that he hopes will

CLASSIFIEDS

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Tel: 02-561-7053.</p> <p>SEEKING LIVE-IN, HOUSEWORK + childcare. Tel: 02-9831642 (NS).</p> <p>SEEKING MOTHER'S HELPER, childcare + housework, English speaking, full time, live-out. 1 child. Tel: (02) 673-3226.</p> <p>SEEKING MOTHER'S HELPER, childcare + housework, English speaking, full time, live-out. 1 child. Tel: (02) 673-3226.</p> <p>SEEKING MOTHER'S HELPER, childcare + housework, English speaking, full time, live-out. 1 child. Tel: (02) 673-3226.</p>	<p>HOUSEHOLD HELP</p> <p>EXPERIENCED HOUSEKEEPER FOR 2 times weekly, long term. Tel: 04-831-2771.</p> <p>SEEKING LIVE-IN, HOUSEWORK + childcare. Tel: 02-9831642 (NS).</p> <p>SEEKING MOTHER'S HELPER, childcare + housework, English speaking, full time, live-out. 1 child. Tel: (02) 673-3226.</p> <p>SEEKING MOTHER'S HELPER, childcare + housework, English speaking, full time, live-out. 1 child. Tel: (02) 673-3226.</p> <p>SEEKING MOTHER'S HELPER, childcare + housework, English speaking, full time, live-out. 1 child. 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Brumer bound for trial with Man. Utd

By Derek Fattal

Gadi Brumer has been invited for a trial with Premier League champions Manchester United.

This is not the first time the Red Devils have expressed interest in acquiring Brumer. Last season Les Kershaw, United's senior scout, came here to watch Brumer in action in a friendly international fixture against Lithuania.

Brumer's current campaign has been hindered by injury but he eventually returned to the Maccabi

Lara steers Windies to win

PERTH (AP) — The West Indies pulled off a nerve-ringing four-wicket win yesterday over Australia to shut the home side out of the World Series limited-overs tournament finals for the first time since 1979-80.

Set to make 268 runs to win, Brian Lara smashed a majestic 110-ball 90 runs to see the West Indies home with four balls to spare at the WACA ground.

SCOREBOARD

NHL - Saturday's results: Pittsburgh 3, Ottawa 3; Montreal 6, Boston 3; Washington 3, Philadelphia 3; N.Y. Islanders 4, Tampa Bay 4; Colorado 3, Toronto 2; Chicago 3, Detroit 1; San Jose 2, Edmonton 1; Florida 4, Calgary 1; Los Angeles 2, St. Louis 1.

NBA - Saturday's results: Toronto 123, New Jersey 106; Atlanta 87, San Antonio 82 (OT); Washington 98, Cleveland 85; Detroit 87, Utah 77; New York 112, Boston 99; Minnesota 95, L.A. Clippers 93; Chicago 110, Houston 86; Dallas 104, Denver 99; Seattle 92, Indiana 84; Sacramento 109, Vancouver 101.

EAST-WEST SHRINE - Saturday's result: East 17, West 13.

